

**208 IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH
(through video conferencing)**

CRM-M-22078-2020
Decided on : 14.08.2020

Naval Kishore Verma

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

..... Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANJARI NEHRU KAUL

Present : Mr. Jasdeep Singh, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Luvinder Sofat, AAG, Punjab.

Manjari Nehru Kaul, J.

Instant petition has been filed under Section 439 Cr.PC for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.47 dated 13.02.2020 registered under Sections 419, 420, 465, 467, 468, 471, 120-B IPC at Police Station Sohana District SAS Nagar (Mohali).

Learned counsel for the petitioner inter alia contends that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in the FIR in question. He further contends that neither any role has been attributed to the petitioner in the FIR nor his name has been mentioned in the FIR. In fact, there is no evidence to connect the petitioner in the alleged crime. It has also been contended that the petitioner is a senior citizen, aged 73 years and nothing is to be recovered from him. It has further been contended that the petitioner is in custody since 28.02.2020 and the trial is unlikely to conclude in the near future due to outbreak of pandemic. Learned counsel for the petitioner further submits that the similarly situated co-accused Joga Singh and Ram Swaroop have already been granted the concession of regular bail by this Court vide

orders dated 31.07.2020 and 12.06.2020 respectively.

Per contra, learned State counsel while opposing the prayer of learned counsel for the petitioner has not been able to controvert the factual aspect of the submissions made by learned counsel for the petitioner. He on instructions from ASI Satpal has conceded that no role has been attributed to the petitioner in the FIR in question and only challan has been presented.

Heard.

In view of the submissions made by learned counsel and the fact that the petitioner has been in custody since 28.02.2020, the trial is unlikely to conclude in the near future more so in the wake of outbreak of pandemic Covid-19. Hence, the present petition is allowed and the petitioner is admitted to bail to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate. However, it is made clear that anything observed hereinabove shall not be construed to be an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

(MANJARI NEHRU KAUL)
JUDGE

14.08.2020
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Whether speaking/reasoned:	Yes/No
Whether reportable :	Yes/No