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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

**CRM-M-22896-2020 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 20.08.2020**

Devender @ Ravinder

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana

..... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDIP AHLUWALIA

Present: Mr. Rajesh Duhan, Advocate,
for the applicant-petitioner.

Mr. Gagandeep S.Chhina, AAG, Haryana.

SUDIP AHLUWALIA, J. (ORAL)

CRM-19773-2020:

Allowed as prayed for, subject to all just exceptions.

CRM-M-22896-2020:

The instant petition has been filed under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure by the petitioner, seeking regular bail in case FIR No.220 dated 18.10.2019, under Sections 323, 34, 342, 376(2) (n) and 506 of the IPC (Sections 3(11) and 5-A of the SC/ST Act added later on), registered at Police Station Women, Panipat, District Panipat.

2. The petitioner has remained in custody since 31.10.2019.

3. It transpires that even though investigation against the petitioner has been completed and challan submitted, still no evidence from the prosecution side has commenced on account of the ongoing COVID-19

Pandemic.

4. Further, from the own Affidavit of the complainant (Annexure P-1), affirmed by her on 11.12.2019, she appears to have retracted from her allegations and has virtually sought to exonerate the petitioner by stating that the FIR was registered by her “*under influence of someone and instruction and due to misunderstanding, which is baseless and wrong*”.

5. In these circumstances, without commenting any further on the merits of the present case as a whole and considering the long detention undergone by the petitioner, his prayer for releasing him on regular bail is allowed and he is ordered to be released on regular bail, subject to the appropriate terms and conditions to the satisfaction of the Ld. Trial Court/Duty Magistrate, concerned.

6. Disposed off.

20.08.2020

Apurva

(SUDIP AHLUWALIA)
JUDGE

1. Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes/No
2. Whether reportable: Yes/No