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

**CRM-M-22915-2020
Date of Decision: 20.08.2020**

Avtar Singh @ Manna

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

..... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDIP AHLUWALIA

Present: Mr. Sanjeet Singh Taank, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Mr. Harbir S.Sandhu, AAG, Punjab.

SUDIP AHLUWALIA, J. (ORAL)

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.0039 dated 25.02.2020, under Section 376 of the IPC and Sections 3 and 4 of the POCSO Act, registered at Police Station Division-B, District Amritsar.

2. The petitioner has remained in custody since 25.02.2020.
3. After completion of the investigation, challan against the petitioner has already been submitted, but the trial is yet to commence and is likely to take its own substantial time to complete on account of the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic.
4. Furthermore, from the Affidavits of the complainant and the alleged victim, being Annexures P-4 and P-5, respectively, it transpires that

they have now sought to retract from the allegations made against the petitioner in the FIR.

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