

**(Proceedings conducted through video conferencing on account of
Covid-19 Pandemic)**

**Date of Decision: 02.09.2020
CRM-M-23292-2020**

RAMESH KUMAR ... PETITIONER
VS.
STATE OF PUNJAB .. RESPONDENT

CRM-M-23577-2020

DHEERAJ KUMAR @ DHAKU ... PETITIONER
VS.
STATE OF PUNJAB .. RESPONDENT

CRM-M-24406-2020

SUNNY ... PETITIONER
VS.
STATE OF PUNJAB .. RESPONDENT

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIVEK PURI

Present : Ms. Suman Kumari, Advocate, for the petitioner(s)
in CRM-M-23292-2020 and CRM-M-24406-2020.

Mr. Priyanshu Kamra, Advocate
for the petitioner in CRM-M-23577-2020.

Mr. H.S.Sitta, AAG, Punjab.

VIVEK PURI, J.(ORAL)

Briefly, FIR No. 180 dated 27.07.2020 has been registered on the allegations that 19 persons including the petitioners are dealing in illicit liquor. They procure the liquor and lahan from the illegal vendors from State of Haryana and Chandigarh and transport the same on the vehicles by affixing fictitious number plates.

It has been contended by the learned counsel for the petitioner(s) that the petitioners have been arrayed as accused only on the basis of suspicion without any material against them.

On the contrary, it has been pointed out by learned State counsel that 07 persons have been arrested and illicit liquor to the extent of about 150 litres has been recovered from them. Furthermore, there are two cases under the Punjab Excise Act registered against Ramesh Kumar and three cases under the same Act have been registered against Dhreej Kumar.

Faced with the situation, it has been pointed out by learned counsel appearing for Dhreej Kumar that in one of the cases, he has been acquitted.

May it be so, it remains the fact that the petitioners alongwith the co-accused are indulging in inter-state smuggling of liquor manufactured in distillery as well as illicit liquor and lahan. There are serious allegations with regard to transporting the liquor on the vehicles by affixing fictitious number plates which aggravates the gravity of allegations against them. Unlawful trading in liquor is a serious offence and cannot be viewed lightly. It renders serious threat to the lives of the people who may be consuming such liquor. The matter requires thorough probe and investigation and the custodial interrogation of the petitioners appear to be essential for the proper investigation of the case. No extra-ordinary circumstances are made out to extend the concession of pre-arrest bail to the petitioners.

All the petitions stand dismissed.

02.09.2020
smriti

(VIVEK PURI)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No
Whether Reportable : Yes/No