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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-24083-2020
Date of Decision: 06.10.2020

MEROOL NISHA

..... Petitioner

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB

..... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDIP AHLUWALIA

Present: Ms. Amandeep Kaur, Advocate, for the petitioner.

Mr. Saurabh Khurana, DAG, Punjab.

SUDIP AHLUWALIA, J. (ORAL)

This is an application for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in the case FIR No.142 dated 11.07.2019 under Section 370-A of IPC 1860, Section 3 and 4 of Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956 and Section 17 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offence Act, 2012, registered at Police Station City Sangrur, District Sangrur.

[2] Notice of motion.

[3] Mr. Saurabh Khurana, DAG Punjab, accepts notice on behalf of the respondent-State.

[4] Petitioner has remained in custody more than 07 months since 04.03.2020. In the meantime, investigation against her has already been completed and challan submitted. The petitioner is a woman. Co-accused Simranjit Kaur @ Sona has already been granted bail by this Court in CRM-M-20246-2020 on 08.09.2020. It transpires that charges in the case have so far been framed but evidence from the prosecution side could not commence on account of onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. There is little likelihood of

completion of expeditious trial in near future in the given circumstances.

[5] As such without further commenting on the merits, this Court is of the opinion that further detention of the petitioner for an indefinite period of time at this stage is not warranted.

[6] In the circumstances, the present petition is allowed and the petitioner, namely, Merool Nisha wife of Gaggu, is ordered to be released on regular bail subject to appropriate terms and conditions to the satisfaction of Ld. Trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned.

06.10.2020

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**(SUDIP AHLUWALIA)
JUDGE**

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