

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

**CRM-M No.27833 of 2020
Date of Decision : 21.09.2020**

Lovepreet Singh

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

.....Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDIP AHLUWALIA

Present : Mr. Karanjeet S. Brar, Advocate
for the Petitioner.

Mr. Avtar S. Sandhu, Addl. Advocate General, Punjab
for the Respondent/State.

SUDIP AHLUWALIA, J. (ORAL)

The instant Petition has been filed under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure seeking Regular Bail on behalf of the Petitioner in case FIR No.344, dated 30th October, 2019, registered under Sections 61 and 78 of the Punjab Excise Act, 1914 and Section 22 of the NDPS Act, 1985, at Police Station Talwandi Sabo, District Bathinda.

2. The Petitioner has remained in detention, in the present case, for almost 11 months since 30th October, 2019.

3. The alleged recovery effected from him was of 286.5 grams of Tramadol.

4. Ld. Counsel for the Petitioner has drawn attention of this Court to the various orders passed by the Co-ordinate Benches of this Court in

CRM-M No.17481 of 2020 – 'Mani Singh @ Maddi' and CRM-M

No.13310 of 2020 – 'Harwinder Singh vs. State of Punjab', in which similarly situated accused persons from whom contraband was recovered have been granted Regular Bail where they are not reported to be involved in any other case under the NDPS Act, in view of the special circumstances to the effect that the Trial is likely to take a long time due to on-set of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

5. It transpires that in the present case also while charges were framed against the Petitioner as long back as on 1st February, 2020, still no witness from the Prosecution Side as yet has been examined on account of the fact that proceedings are not being taken up in the regular manner due to Covid-19 Pandemic.

6. In the circumstances and without commenting upon the other merits of the case, at this stage, this Court is of the opinion that further detention of the Petitioner for an indefinite period is not justified. As such, he is ordered to be released on bail subject to the satisfaction of the Ld. Trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned.

7. Disposed off.

September 21, 2020

Dpr

(SUDIP AHLUWALIA)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No

Whether reportable : Yes/No