

HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

208 - CRM-M-28184-2020
Date of Decision: 23.09.2020

Manpreet Singh @ Manna

... Petitioner

VS.

State of Punjab

... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE GIRISH AGNIHOTRI

Present: Mr. OP Kamboj, Advocate for the petitioner

Mr. Rana Harjasdeep, DAG Punjab

GIRISH AGNIHOTRI, J. (Oral)

The matter has been taken up through video conferencing on account of lockdown due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

The petitioner Manpreet Singh @ Manna aged 29 years has filed the present petition *inter alia* with a prayer for grant of regular bail in case FIR No.13 dated 19.03.2020, under Section 21/22 of NDPS Act, 1985, registered at Police Station Lakho Ke Behram, District Ferozepur.

Record of the case shows that this Court vide order dated 08.07.2020 passed in CRM-M-13816-2020 (P2) had granted interim bail to the petitioner and he was directed to surrender immediately after receipt of the FSL receipt.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that after receipt of the FSL report, the petitioner has immediately surrendered. He has not misused the benefit of interim bail. He further submits that as per the FSL report, there were 300 tablets which were allegedly recovered from the petitioner and the said quantity comes out to be non-commercial.

Learned State counsel, on instructions from ASI Ram Parkash, submits that there were other two co-accused from whom 900 tablets and

1000 tablets, respectively were recovered. He then submits that there is no other case in which the petitioner has been involved. He submits that the challan in the present case was presented on 14.08.2020. There are a total of 11 witnesses and none have been examined till date.

Learned counsel for the petitioner then submits that due to the present COVID-19 situation, detention of the petitioner in jail would be dangerous to his life and also the fact that trial is likely to take some time, the petitioner may be granted concession of regular bail.

In view of the facts noticed above, the present situation due to COVID-19 and the fact that trial is likely to take some time, this Court deems it appropriate to direct release of the petitioner on regular bail to the satisfaction of Chief Judicial Magistrate/Duty Magistrate concerned, subject to his furnishing bail bonds/surety bonds.

However, it is made clear that anything observed herein shall not be construed as an expression on merits of the case.

The petition stands disposed of accordingly.

23.09.2020

vishal shonkar

1. *Whether speaking/reasoned?*
2. *Whether reportable?*

(Girish Agnihotri)
Judge

Yes/No
Yes/No