

CRM-M-28707-2020

Date of Decision : 23.09.2020

Sohan Singh @ Sonu

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

....Respondent

Coram : Hon'ble Mr. Justice B.S. Walia**Present :** Mr.Ranjodh Singh Sidhu, Advocate for the petitioner.
Mr. Amar Ashok Pathak, Addl. A.G., Punjab.

B.S. Walia, J. (VC)

1. Case is being taken up for hearing through Video Conferencing due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic.
2. Prayer in the petition under Section 439Cr.P.C. is for grant of regular bail to the petitioner during pendency of trial in case FIR No.149 dated 21.09.2016, registered under Section 15/61/85 of the NDPS Act, at Police Station Zira.
3. As per the prosecution case on 25.09.2016, the accused, who was coming in a canter bearing registration No.PBR05R-9397, was stopped and search was conducted in accordance with law, whereupon, 12 plastic bags containing 30 kg of poppy husk each were recovered from the canter, total quantity of the poppy husk worked out to 3 quintal 60 kg. Learned counsel contends that although the charges were framed on 16.12.2016 but the trial has not concluded and the petitioner is in custody since the past close to four years.
4. Learned Addl. AG, Punjab, on the other hand, contends that

heavy recovery has been made and out of 11 prosecution witness, five have already been examined and that directions can be issued to the learned trial Court to conclude the trial at the earliest.

5. I have considered the submission of learned counsel for the parties.

6. Keeping in view the heavy recovery made besides the petitioner having been convicted earlier under the NDPS Act and sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a period of 10 years with a fine of Rs.1 Lakh, it is deemed appropriate to direct the learned trial Court to conclude the trial at the earliest. Accordingly, learned trial Court is directed to endeavour to conclude the trial as early as possible. Copy of this order be transmitted to the learned trial Court for necessary compliance.

(B.S. Walia)
Judge

September 23, 2020
'Rajesh-Amit'

Whether speaking/ reasoned	:	Yes/No
Whether reportable	:	Yes/No