

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

CRM-M-28648-2020
Date of decision: 24.09.2020

Vikram Singh	...Petitioner
Versus	
State of Punjab	...Respondent

Coram: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Vivek Puri

Present: Mr. K.D.S. Hooda, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Sukhbeer Singh, AAG, Punjab.

(The case has been taken up through video conferencing on
account of Covid-19 pandemic)

Vivek Puri J. (Oral)

Through present petition, the petitioner is seeking regular bail in case FIR No. 02 dated 25.07.2017, under Section 15 of NDPS Act, 1985, registered at Police Station STF Phase IV, Mohali, District SAS Nagar, Mohali.

Precisely, the allegation against the petitioner is with regard to recovery of 90 kg poppy husk.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the arrest of the petitioner was effected as back as on 25.07. 2017 and he is in custody for a period exceeding three years. Though the case before the trial court is fixed for defence evidence but the trial is not progressing on account of COVID-19 Pandemic. It has been further stated that Sohan Singh, co-accused who is facing joint trial with the petitioner has been granted regular bail by a Coordinate Bench of this Court vide order dated 02.09.2020 passed in

CRM-M-25253 of 2020.

Learned State counsel has stated that the case is at the final stage and fixed for defence evidence, if any and arguments. However, he is not disputed the fact that the similarly placed co-accused Sohan Singh has been granted bail.

In the instant case, the petitioner is in custody for the last more than three years and the conclusion of the trial may take some more time on account of restricted hearing of the Courts due to COVID-19 Pandemic. Moreover, the petitioner becomes entitled to bail on the principle of parity.

In view of the aforesaid facts and circumstances of the case and without making any observation on the merits of the case, sufficient grounds are made out to extend the concession of bail to the petitioner. Accordingly, the present petition is allowed and the petitioner is directed to be released on bail, subject to his furnishing bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of Chief Judicial Magistrate/ trial Court/ Duty Magistrate concerned.

[VIVEK PURI]
JUDGE

24.09.2020
hemlata

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