

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

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CRM-M-28964-2020

DATE OF DECISION: 12.10.2020

MANJIT SINGH @ MANJITI

... Petitioner (s)

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB

... Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL

Present: Mr. Ashok Giri, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Dhruv Dayal, Senior DAG, Punjab.

ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL, J. (ORAL)

The petitioner is seeking regular bail in FIR No.32 dated 22.02.2018, under Section 15 of the NDPS Act, 1985, registered at Police Station Shahkot, District Jalandhar Rural.

Learned counsel for the petitioner, *inter alia*, contends that the allegations in the FIR are that 60 bags of poppy husk each containing 20 kg were allegedly recovered from a truck in which the petitioner was allegedly travelling. He further contends that the petitioner is in custody for over 2 years and 8 months. He also contends that the petitioner is not involved in any other case under the NDPS Act. He also contends that the co-accused Balwinder Singh @ Binder @ Gurmeet has been granted regular bail by the Special Court.

Learned State counsel has filed the custody certificate through email which indicates that the petitioner is in custody for over 2 years, 7

months and 15 days. He, upon instructions from ASI Balwinder Singh, contends that 1 out of 9 prosecution witnesses has been examined.

Heard through video conferencing.

In view of the submissions of the learned counsel for the petitioner, especially when the petitioner is in custody for over 2 years and 7 months, he is not involved in any other case under the NDPS Act, the COVID-19 pandemic and the conclusion of the trial is likely to take some time, I deem it a fit case to grant the concession of regular bail to the petitioner.

Therefore, without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, the instant petition is allowed. The petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail on his furnishing requisite bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned.

(ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL)
JUDGE

12.10.2020.

SwarnjitS

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