

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

**CRM-M No.28119 of 2019
Date of Decision:14.08.2020**

PARDEEP KUMAR

...Petitioner

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB

..Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DEEPAK SIBAL

Present: Mr. Jashandeep Sandhu, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. H.S. Sullar, DAG, Punjab.

DEEPAK SIBAL, J. (ORAL)

Case taken up through video conferencing.

The present petition has been filed under Section 439 Cr.P.C. for the grant of regular bail in FIR No.37 dated 09.04.2019, registered under Section 22 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 at Police Station Maur, District Bathinda.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner is a registered Pharmacist and has been falsely implicated in the case; he is in custody since 9.4.2019; there is no other criminal case in which he is involved and that since 13 prosecution witnesses remain to be examined, the trial is likely to take a long time to conclude.

Learned State counsel opposes the grant of bail on the ground that heavy quantity of tablets, which come in the definition of the narcotic

drugs, have been recovered from the petitioner's illegal possession.

Whether the petitioner was in illegal or legal possession of the drugs in question will be deciphered at the end of the trial. However, the petitioner is in custody since 09.04.2019; there is no other criminal case in which he is involved and since 13 prosecution witnesses remain to be examined, the trial is likely to take a long time to conclude especially in the present circumstances when the world is facing the COVID-19 pandemic.

In view of the above, the present case is considered to be a fit one in which the petitioner be directed to be released on regular bail. Resultantly, subject to the satisfaction of the CJM/Duty Magistrate, Bathinda, the petitioner is directed to be released on bail.

It is clarified that the above observations have been made only for the limited purpose of deciding the present regular bail application and the same would not be construed to be an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

August 14, 2020

Jyoti-IV

(DEEPAK SIBAL)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned Yes/No Whether Reportable Yes/No