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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-46200-2019 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 17.11.2020

Kuldip Singh

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

..... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDIP AHLUWALIA

Present: Mr. Gurpal Singh Sandhu, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Mr. B.S. Sewak, Addl. A.G., Punjab,
for the respondent-State.

SUDIP AHLUWALIA, J. (ORAL)

The instant petition has been filed under Section 439 of the Cr.P.C. seeking regular bail in case FIR No.147 dated 20.09.2019, under Section 22 of the N.D.P.S. Act, registered at Police Station Sadar Malout, District Sri Muktsar Sahib.

[2]. The petitioner has remained in detention in the present case for 1 year, 1 month and 23 days by now. There is no record of his involvement in any other case under the N.D.P.S. Act.

[3]. Co-accused, namely, Mangal Singh has already been granted regular bail by this Court in CRM-M-8016-2020 on 27.10.2020.

[4]. After completion of investigation, challan was filed against the petitioner in the month of February of this year and the Charges framed subsequently in March, 2020.

[5]. Thereafter, evidence from the prosecution side could not be

commenced due to the outbreak of COVID-19 Pandemic, although as many as 17 witnesses have been cited in the Challan.

[6]. Considering all the above circumstances and without commenting any further on the merits of the present case as a whole, but in view of the detention undergone by the petitioner and the fact that the trial is likely to take its own considerable time due to ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, the prayer of the petitioner for his release on regular bail is allowed and he is ordered to be released on bail, subject to appropriate terms and conditions to the satisfaction of the Ld. Trial Court/Duty Magistrate, concerned.

[7]. Disposed off.

17.11.2020

Bhumika

**(SUDIP AHLUWALIA)
JUDGE**

1. Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes/No
2. Whether reportable: Yes/No