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

CRM-M-619-2021

Date of decision-12.01.2021

Ajay Singh @ Honey**....Petitioner**

Vs.

State of Punjab**...Respondent****CORAM:- HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANOJ BAJAJ**

Present: Mr. J.K.Singla, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Prabhjot Singh Walia, AAG, Punjab.

MANOJ BAJAJ, J.

Petitioner has filed this petition under Section 439 Cr.P.C for grant of regular bail pending trial in case FIR No.104 dated 03.07.2020 registered under Sections 22, 25 and 29 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 at Police Station Barnala, District Barnala. The petitioner is in custody since his arrest on 23.11.2020.

As per the prosecution case, on 03.07.2020, when Police officials were present at Standard Chowk, Handiaya in connection with patrol duty, a secret information was received that Satnam Singh being engaged in selling of intoxicant tablets would be coming to Village Sekha, Pharwahi, Jhaloor, Handiaya, Dhanoula Khurd on his motorcycle for selling the same. Acting upon the same, accused was apprehended. Upon search, 2500 Clovidol-100 GS intoxicant tablets were recovered.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the alleged

accused- Satnam Singh on 03.07.2020 and the said accused was arrested on the spot. He submits that after few days, the petitioner was indicted as an accused through DDR No.17 dated 09.07.2020. He has pointed out that no recovery has been effected from the petitioner and the statement of the co-accused against the petitioner alone may not be enough to establish his involvement in the alleged crime. He prays that the petitioner be released on bail during the pendency of the trial.

On the other hand, learned State counsel assisted by SI Gulab Singh does not dispute this fact that the recovery was effected from accused Satnam Singh alone and on his statement, the petitioner was arraigned as an accused. He further states that the final report has been filed on 15.12.2020 and after completion of the investigation, charges have been framed against the accused on 22.12.2020, however, the prosecution witnesses are yet to be examined. He has further produced the custody certificate dated 11.01.2021 by way of affidavit of Baldev Singh Kang, Deputy Superintendent, District Jail, Mansa, which indicates that he is not involved in any other case of similar nature.

After hearing the learned counsel for the parties, this Court finds that the investigation of the case is complete and the charges were also framed on 22.12.2020. This Court is cognizant of the fact that the outbreak of pandemic COVID-19 in the region may further delay the conclusion of trial. Admittedly, the petitioner is presently confined in judicial custody since 23.11.2020 and his further detention may not be necessary for any useful purpose, therefore, this Court does not find any reason to decline the prayer.

Resultantly, without meaning any expression of opinion on the

merits of the case, it is ordered that the petitioner be released on regular bail

subject to his furnishing requisite bail bonds/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court concerned.

The petition is allowed.

12.01.2021

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(MANOJ BAJAJ)
JUDGE

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