

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

(Through Video Conferencing)

CRM-M-11273-2021

Date of Decision: 16.03.2021

VIMAL KALRA

.....*Petitioner*

V/s.

STATE OF PUNJAB

.....*Respondent*

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANJARI NEHRU KAUL.

Present: Mr. Vivek Suri, Advocate,
 for the petitioner.

Mr. Luvinder Sofat, Assistant Advocate General, Punjab.

MANJARI NEHRU KAUL, J. (Oral)

This is the first petition filed under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.288 dated 22.12.2020 registered under Sections 420, 467, 468, 120-B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 at Police Station City Rajpura, District Patiala, Punjab.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the petitioner who is 63 years of age has been falsely implicated in the FIR in question. He submits that in fact he had no role to play in the alleged crime as he had only purchased one vehicle and that too after paying the consideration amount to the main accused-Rakesh Kumar whose interim bail was confirmed by the trial Court vide order dated 12.02.2021. He further submits that the petitioner is not involved in any other criminal case, therefore, he may be extended the concession of regular bail as the trial is unlikely to conclude in the near future and all the offences are triable by the Magistrate.

Per contra, learned State counsel while opposing the prayer and submissions made by learned counsel for the petitioner, on instructions from SI Gurnam Singh, has conceded that the petitioner is not involved in any other criminal case and the interim bail of the main accused-Rakesh Kumar has since been confirmed by the trial Court. It has further been submitted that the delay in conclusion of the trial has been on account of the outbreak of pandemic COVID-19.

Heard.

In view of the submissions made by learned counsel for the parties and the fact that petitioner has been in custody since 01.01.2021, I deem it a fit case for grant of the concession of regular bail to the petitioner, as the trial is unlikely to conclude in the near future, more so, in the prevailing conditions due to the outbreak of COVID-19. The petition as such is allowed and the petitioner is admitted to bail to the satisfaction of trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned. However, it is made clear that anything observed hereinabove shall not be construed as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

March 16, 2021

Ess Kay

**[MANJARI NEHRU KAUL]
JUDGE**

<i>Whether speaking / reasoned</i>	:	<i>Yes</i>	/	<i>No</i>
<i>Whether Reportable</i>	:	<i>Yes</i>	/	<i>No</i>