

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

231

CRM-M-16011-2021
Date of decision: 20.04.2021

Baljinder Singh

... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

.... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARNARESH SINGH GILL

Present:- Mr. B.S.Sidhu, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Mr.H.S.Sitta, AAG, Punjab.

HARNARESH SINGH GILL, J. (ORAL)

Case is taken up for hearing through video conferencing.

Through this petition, the petitioner seeks regular bail in case FIR No.150 dated 19.07.2018, registered at Police Station Mattaur, District SAS Nagar (Mohali), under Sections 406, 420 of IPC and Section 24 of Immigration Act, 1983.

Learned counsel for the petitioner states that there are number of cases pending against the petitioner. In the present case, the petitioner has surrendered in the court on 20.02.2019 and the charges were framed on 15.07.2019 but till date only three PWs have been examined and the petitioner is in custody for last 02 years and 25 days. He further states that in the other cases, the petitioner has been granted bail keeping in view the custody period. He relies upon CRM-M-932-2021 decided on 25.01.2021 (Annexure P-4), CRM-M-3173-2021 decided on 28.01.2021 (Annexure P-5) and CRM-M-4224 of 2021, decided on 25.02.2021 (Annexure P-6) titled as Baljinder Singh versus State of Punjab.

Learned State counsel has pointed out that there are 68 FIRs and 07 criminal complaints are pending against the petitioner but has not disputed the fact that the petitioner has been granted bail by the Co-ordinate Bench of this Court in the other cases keeping in view the custody period. He further states that the charges was framed on 15.07.2019 and out of 12 witnesses, only 03 prosecution witnesses have been examined.

I have heard the learned counsel for the parties.

It is not disputed the fact that there are number of cases pending against the petitioner but it cannot be ignored that the petitioner is in custody since last 02 years and 25 days. Trial of the case would take time to conclude due to Covid-19 Pandemic. Therefore, no useful purpose would be served by keeping the petitioner behind the bars.

In view of the above, without commenting anything on the merits, lest it should prejudice the case of either side, the present petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be released on bail on his furnishing bail and surety bonds to the satisfaction of the learned trial Court/Duty Magistrate.

20.04.2021

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(HARNARESH SINGH GILL)

JUDGE

Whether reasoned/speaking?

Yes/No

Whether reportable?

Yes/No