

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

207

**CRM-M-20567-2021(O&M)
Decided on : 27.05.2021**

RAJAT KALRA

... Petitioner(s)

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB

... Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANJARI NEHRU KAUL
(Through Video Conferencing)

PRESENT: Mr. Sandeep Arora, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Luvinder Sofat, AAG Punjab
assisted by ASI Lakhwinder Singh.

MANJARI NEHRU KAUL, J. (Oral)

The instant petition has been filed under Section 439 Cr.P.C. for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.78 dated 19.06.2019 under Sections 379-B and 411 of the IPC registered at Police Station GRP Jalandhar, District Jalandhar.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the petitioner has been in custody since 19.06.2019 and prosecution evidence stands concluded however there is no likelihood of the trial concluding any time in the near future on account of prevailing conditions due to the outbreak of the pandemic. Learned counsel submits that in the circumstances, he may be extended the concession of bail.

On the contrary, learned State counsel while opposing the prayer and submissions made by learned counsel for the petitioners, on instructions from ASI Lakhwinder Singh has submitted that due to the pandemic, there has been delay in the conclusion of the trial. He further submits that once the conditions normalize, the trial would not take much

time to conclude.

On a pointed query put to the learned State counsel as to whether the petitioner is involved in any other case of similar nature, he has replied in the negative.

Heard.

In view of the submissions made by learned counsel for the parties, 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, subject to his furnishing bonds of one local surety. However, it is made clear that anything observed hereinabove shall not be construed to be an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

(MANJARI NEHRU KAUL)
JUDGE

May 27, 2021

S.Sharma(syr)

Whether speaking/reasoned: *Yes/No*

Whether Reportable: *Yes/No*