

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

CRM-M- 20508-2021 (O&M)

Date of Decision: May 28, 2021

(Heard through VC)

Lalit Kumar Soni alias Raju Soni

... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

... Respondent

CORAM:- HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE JAISHREE THAKUR

Present:- Mr. Rahul Rampal, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Bhupinder Beniwal, AAG, Punjab.

JAISHREE THAKUR, 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. 237 dated 19.09.2020, under Sections 379-B, 34 of Indian Penal Code 1860 (Section 411 IPC, added later on), registered at Police Station Division No.6, District Ludhiana.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the petitioner herein was not nominated as an accused in the said FIR and came to be arrested on 21.09.2020 on the basis of statement given by the co-accused. It is also contended that no further investigation is required in the matter, since the challan has already been presented, therefore, petitioner is entitled to be enlarged on bail.

Per contra, learned counsel appearing on behalf of respondent-State, opposes the bail application, while submitting that the offences alleged against the petitioner are serious in nature, therefore, the petitioner is not entitled to grant of regular bail.

I have heard learned counsel for the parties.

The trial is likely to take some time to conclude owing to COVID-19 pandemic situation. In view of the facts that the petitioner was not nominated in the FIR; challan has been presented; co-accused has already been granted bail and the petitioner is not required for any further investigation, no useful purpose would be served in keeping the petitioner behind the bars any longer. At this stage, without commenting on the merits of the case, the instant petition is allowed and the petitioner is directed to be released on regular bail on his execution of adequate personal and surety bonds to the satisfaction of concerned trial Court/Duty Magistrate.

However, anything observed or said by this court is only for the purpose of deciding the instant petition for bail and the same shall have no bearing on merits of the case.

May 28, 2021

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(JAISHREE THAKUR)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned

Yes/No

Whether reportable

Yes/No