

In the High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh

214

CRM-M-24093-2021 (O & M)

Date of Decision: July 19, 2021

MANPREET SINGH

.....PETITIONER

VERSUS

**UNION OF INDIA THROUGH INTELLIGENCE OFFICER,
NARCOTIC CONTROL BUREAU, CHANDIGARHRESPONDENT**

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL

Present: Mr.Anshul Khurana, Advocate for the petitioner.

Ms. Shweta Nahata, Advocate for NCB, Chandigarh.

ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL, J (ORAL)

Case taken up through video conferencing.

The petitioner is seeking regular bail in Crime No.29 dated 17.07.2018, under Sections 08, 15, 29, 60 and 61 of NDPS Act, registered at Narcotics Control Bureau Zonal Unit, Chandigarh.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that it is alleged that 299 kgs of poppy husk was recovered from a truck which was being driven by the petitioner. The petitioner is in custody for about 03 years and is not involved in any other case under the NDPS Act. He also contends that due to Covid-19 pandemic, the trial has come to a stand still.

Learned counsel for NCB, Chandigarh has filed reply on behalf of the respondent. The same is taken on record. She has also filed custody certificate, which indicates that the petitioner is in custody for 02 years, 11 months and 24 days. She also contends that cross-examination of only 02 prosecution witnesses is to take place and the trial is nearing conclusion. She also contends that in view of the serious allegation against the petitioner, he is not entitled to the concession of regular bail.

Heard.

In view of the above, especially when the petitioner is in custody for almost 03 years, he is not involved in any other case under the NDPS Act, Covid 19 pandemic and the conclusion of the trial is likely to take some time, I deem it a fit case to grant the concession of regular bail to the petitioner.

Therefore, without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, the petition is allowed. The petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail on his furnishing requisite bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned.

(ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL)
JUDGE

July 19, 2021
A.Kaundal

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