

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

103

CRM-M-20980-2020 (O&M)

Date of Order:22.02.2021

SURJIT SINGH

..Petitioner

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB

..Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANIL KSHETARPAL

Present: Mr. Alankar Narula, Advocate,
for the petitioner.
Mr. Sidakmeet Singh Sandhu, AAG, Punjab.

ANIL KSHETARPAL, J(Oral)

This is second petition for grant of bail to the petitioner pending trial in a criminal case arising from FIR No.78, dated 18.03.2019 registered under Section 379 IPC (Section 411/473/467/468/471/420/120-B/201 IPC added later on) at Police Station Sohana, District SAS Nagar, Punjab.

The first petition for grant of bail to the petitioner was dismissed on 12.02.2019, with the following order:-

“Petitioner prays for grant of regular bail pending trial in a criminal case arising from FIR No.78 dated 18.03.2019 registered under Sections 379, 411, 473, 467, 468, 471, 420, 120-B, 201 of the Indian Penal Code at Police Station Sohana, District SAS Nagar, Punjab.

As per case of the prosecution, the petitioner after stealing the vehicles changes its engine and chasis number and dispose of the same.

Learned counsel for the State, on instructions from ASI Gurpartap Singh, has submitted that stolen 20 cars and 1 activa scooter have been recovered from the possession of the petitioner. He further submits that no doubt, the petitioner has been acquitted in 9 cases, however, still 17 cases are pending including one case in Panipat, one case in Rajpura and many cases in Bathinda and

Mohali.

In view thereof, this Court is not inclined to grant regular bail to the petitioner.

Accordingly, the present petition is dismissed.”

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the petitioner is in custody for 1 year 10 months and 9 days and the conclusion of the trial is likely to take time. He further submits that by now, the petitioner has been acquitted in as many as 10 cases as he is being falsely implicated. He further while, drawing attention of the Court to the report of Forensic Science Laboratory contends that there was no tampering with the engine/chassis numbers of the alleged stolen vehicles.

On the other hand, Mr. Sidakmeet Singh Sandhu, AAG, Punjab, contends that the petitioner is a habitual offender.

The case is triable by the Magistrate. The petitioner is in custody for a period of more than 1 year and 10 months already. The conclusion of the trial is likely to take time.

Without commenting on the merits of the case and keeping in view the aforesaid facts, the petitioner is directed to be released on regular bail subject to furnishing of adequate surety to the satisfaction of the concerned trial Court/Duty Magistrate.

Accordingly, the petition is allowed with the aforesaid directions.

February 22, 2021
nt

(ANIL KSHETARPAL)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No
Whether reportable : Yes/No