

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

212

**CRM-M No. 27979 of 2020
Date of decision : 14.01.2021**

Hardeep Singh @ Hardeep

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

.....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARINDER SINGH SIDHU

Present: Mr. Ashok Kumar Khunger, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. M.S.Dullat, Addl.A.G., Punjab
for respondent-State.

HARINDER SINGH SIDHU, J.

The case is taken up through video conferencing on account of COVID-19.

The petitioner has filed the present petition under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 for grant of regular bail in case FIR No. 0122 dated 07.08.2020 registered under Sections 354, 354-B IPC and Section 8 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 at Police Station Bahavwala, District Fazilka.

The case was registered on the statement of the complainant/prosecutrix. In her statement she stated that was 15 years old. On 05.08.2020, she was going to Dhani of Inder Rahar which was one kilometer from her house. On the way her neighbourer Hardeep Singh (petitioner) stopped his motor cycle near her and offered her a lift, but instead of taking her to the said Dhani, he took her to a nearby garden/park and made an attempt to remove her clothes. She raised noise and ran towards her house and after reaching her house, she narrated the incident to her mother.

Learned counsel for the petitioner states that the petitioner is in custody since 10.08.2020. Investigation in the case is complete and challan has been presented. He further states that petitioner is not involved any other criminal case.

The trial of case is not making any headway because of COVID -19 pandemic. No useful purpose will be served by keeping the petitioner behind the bars till the conclusion of trial.

Without commenting anything on the merits of the case and also bearing in mind the custody period of the petitioner, this criminal miscellaneous petition is allowed and the petitioner-Hardeep Singh @ Hardeep ordered to be released on bail subject to his furnishing bail bonds and surety bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Chief Judicial Magistrate/Duty Magistrate concerned.

14.01.2021

Rajeev (rvs)

**(HARINDER SINGH SIDHU)
JUDGE**

Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
---------------------------	--------

Whether reportable	Yes/No
--------------------	--------