

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH
(through video conferencing)**

CRM-M-37134-2020
Decided on : 19.01.2021

Gurjeet Singh

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

..... Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANJARI NEHRU KAUL

Present : Ms. R.K.Grewal, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. R.S.Khaira, AAG, Punjab.

Manjari Nehru Kaul, J.

Instant petition has been filed under Section 439 Cr.PC for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.7 dated 18.05.2017 registered under Sections 13(1)D, 13(2) of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and Sections 420, 467, 468, 471, 120-B IPC, 1860 at Police Station Vigilance Bureau, Patiala District Patiala.

Earlier petition having been dismissed as withdrawn by this Court in August, 2020, learned counsel for the petitioner submits that subsequently challan has been presented and charges are yet to be framed. She further submits that the petitioner has been in custody since 18.06.2020 for the offences, which are triable by the Magistrate. It has also been contended that in case the petitioner is released on regular bail, there is no likelihood of the petitioner pressurizing or influencing the prosecution witnesses to depose in his favour as all the prosecution witnesses are official witnesses. Hence, it has been prayed that the petitioner be extended the concession of regular bail.

Per contra, learned State counsel while opposing the prayer of learned counsel for the petitioner on instructions from ASI Rulda Singh has submitted that charges are likely to be framed in the near future. He has also conceded that the prosecution witnesses cited in the challan are official witnesses.

Heard.

In view of the submissions made by learned counsel and the fact that the petitioner has been in custody since 18.06.2020, the trial is unlikely to conclude in the near future more so in the wake of outbreak of pandemic Covid-19. Hence, the present petition is allowed and the petitioner is admitted to bail to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate. 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

19.01.2021

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Whether speaking/reasoned:

Yes/No

Whether reportable :

Yes/No