

In the High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh

**CRM-M No. 33121 of 2019
Date of Decision: 04.1.2021**

Bittu Singh

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

.....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARNARESH SINGH GILL

Present: Mr. G.S.Sandhu, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Avtar Singh Sandhu, Addl. A.G., Punjab.

HARNARESH SINGH GILL, J. (ORAL)

Case is taken up for hearing through video conferencing.

The petitioner seeks regular bail in FIR No. 069 dated 14.7.2017 under Section 22 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, registered at Police Station Gidderbaha, District Sri Muktsar Sahib.

Custody certificate by way of affidavit of Deputy Superintendent, Central Prison, Faridkot has been filed through e-mail. Copy of the same is taken on record.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner has been in custody for the last 01 year, 08 months and 18 days and there is no other case against him and moreover, from the last three years, only one witness has been examined.

On the other hand, learned State counsel submits that out of 11 prosecution witnesses, two have been examined but he has not disputed the

fact that the petitioner has been in custody for the last 01 year, 08 months and 18 days.

I have heard the learned counsel for the parties.

As per the custody certificate, the petitioner has been in custody for the last 01 year, 08 months and 18 days and there is no other case against him. Moreover, out of 11 prosecution witnesses, only two have been examined. The trial will take time to conclude because of Covid-19 pandemic. No useful purpose would be served by keeping the petitioner behind the bars.

Without commenting anything on the merits of the case, the petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be released on bail on his furnishing bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate.

(HARNARESH SINGH GILL)
JUDGE

January 04, 2021
Gurpreet

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