

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

CRM-M-40612-2020
Decided on : 11.02.2021

Rajeev Arora

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

..... Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANJARI NEHRU KAUL

Present : Mr. Ashish Gupta, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Ms. Monika Jalota, DAG, 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.129 dated 19.07.2020 registered under Sections 409, 420, 120-B IPC,1860 at Police Station City Kotkapura District Faridkot.

Learned counsel for the petitioner inter alia contends that the petitioner has been in custody since 18.09.2020 in a case for offences triable by the Magistrate. He further submits that there is no qualitative evidence on record to connect the petitioner with the crime in question and in fact it is essentially a civil dispute between the parties, which has been given a criminal complexion.

Per contra, learned State counsel while opposing the prayer of learned counsel for the petitioner on instructions from ASI Chamkaur Singh has submitted that charges are likely to be framed in the near future and delay has been on account of outbreak of Covid-19.

Heard.

In view of the submissions made by learned counsel and the fact that the petitioner has been in custody since 18.09.2020, 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

11.02.2021

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Whether speaking/reasoned:

Yes/No

Whether reportable :

Yes/No