

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

CRM-M-42444-2020 (O&M)

Date of decision: 07.12.2021

Sandeep Singh

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

.....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARNARESH SINGH GILL

Present: Mr. Ravinder Singh Marahar, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Sarabjit Singh Cheema, AAG Punjab.

HARNARESH SINGH GILL, J. (ORAL)

The petitioner has filed this petition under Section 439 of Cr.P.C. for grant of regular bail in case FIR No. 91 dated 02.07.2019, registered under Sections 409, 420 and 120-B IPC, at Police Station City I Malerkotla, District Sangrur.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner has falsely been implicated in the present case. The petitioner is a Bus Conductor in PRTC Sangrur Depot and his duty was only to prepare the student passes, for which the money was received and handled by Nirpal Singh @ Nirmal, Cashier, who has already been granted regular bail vide order dated 16.10.2020 passed by a Coordinate Bench. The petitioner has

been in custody since 06.08.2020. The prosecution witnesses are yet to be examined.

Learned State counsel, while vehemently opposing the prayer for bail submits that out of the embezzled amount of Rs. 34,72,591/-, the petitioner has deposited Rs. 8,51,588/- with the department. However, he does not dispute the custody period of the petitioner. He concedes that out of 24 prosecution witnesses, none has been examined so far.

I have heard the learned counsel for the parties.

The petitioner has been in custody since 06.08.2020. Charges have already been framed. The prosecution witnesses are yet to be examined. Therefore, conclusion of the trial would take a long time. Moreover, as noticed above, co-accused, Nirpal Singh @ Nirmal, Cashier, has already been granted regular bail by the Coordinate Bench. Hence, no useful purpose would be served by keeping the petitioner behind the bars.

In view of the above, without commenting anything on the merits, lest it should prejudice the case of either side, the petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail on his furnishing bail and surety bonds to the satisfaction of the learned trial Court/Duty Magistrate.

(HARNARESH SINGH GILL)
JUDGE

07.12.2021

Mangal Singh

Whether reasoned/speaking?
Whether reportable?

Yes/No
Yes/No