

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

CRM-M-10952-2022 (O&M)

Date of decision: 04.07.2022

Tarsem Singh Sodhi

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARNARESH SINGH GILL

Present: Mr. J.S. Jaidka, Advocate and
Mr. Abhishek Khullar, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Ajay Pal Singh Gill, DAG Punjab.

HARNARESH SINGH GILL, J. (ORAL)

Through this petition, the petitioner seeks regular bail in case bearing FIR No.265 dated 15.09.2013, registered under Sections 419, 420, 465, 467, 468, 471, 120-B IPC, at Police Station Focal Point, District Ludhiana.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner was having no knowledge regarding the registration of the FIR; that the allegation against the petitioner is that he has arranged fake persons for execution of sale deed in favour of co-accused Jagjit Singh (beneficiary); that the petitioner has been indicted on the basis of the disclosure statement of said Jagjit Singh, who has already been granted the concession of bail on 23.06.2015; that similarly situated co-accused, namely Onkar Singh, has also been granted the concession of bail on 21.07.2015 and that, at one point of time, the petitioner was declared as a proclaimed offender on 21.05.2015 and re-arrested on 22.12.2021 and since then he has been in custody.

Learned State counsel, while opposing the prayer for bail, submits that the petitioner evaded arrest for more than 06 years. However, he does not dispute the custody period of the petitioner. He submits that out of 32 prosecution witnesses, only 19 have been examined so far.

I have heard the learned counsel for the parties.

The petitioner has been in custody since 22.12.2021. Co-accused Jagjit Singh (beneficiary) and similarly placed co-accused Onkar Singh, have already been granted the concession of regular bail. The remaining 13 prosecution witnesses are yet to be examined. Therefore, the conclusion of the trial would take time. 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

04.07.2022

Mangal Singh

Whether reasoned/speaking?
Whether reportable?

Yes/No
Yes/No