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

CRWP-4743-2022

Date of decision : 19.05.2022

Santokh Singh

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and others

...Respondents

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIKAS BAHL**

Present: Mr. Ravi Malhotra, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Sarabjit S. Cheema, AAG, Punjab.

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**VIKAS BAHL, J. (ORAL)**

This is a Criminal Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India for the issuance of an appropriate order or direction to the respondents to release the petitioner prematurely forthwith in terms of Government Instructions dated 08.07.1991 (Annexure P-4).

Learned counsel for the petitioner has submitted that the petitioner was convicted and sentenced to undergo life imprisonment in FIR No.98 dated 28.08.1996 registered under Sections 302/120-B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 at Police Station Mahilpur, District Hoshiarpur and the appeal filed by the petitioner was also dismissed and even the SLP filed against the same has also been dismissed. It is further submitted that the petitioner has already undergone 17 years actual punishment and 20 years with remission. It is further contended that the premature release case of the petitioner is covered by the Punjab Government Policy dated 08.07.1991 (Annexure P-4). The premature release case of the petitioner was also recommended by respondent No.3-

Superintendent, Central Jail, Jalandhar at Kapurthala, but the same has not been decided till date.

Learned counsel for the petitioner has further submitted that the petitioner would be satisfied in case, the present Criminal Writ Petition is disposed of with directions to the official respondents to finally decide the case of the petitioner for premature release within a period of two months from the date of receipt of certified copy of the present order.

Notice of motion.

On advance notice, Mr. Sarabjit S. Cheema, AAG, Punjab, appears and accepts notice on behalf of the State and has submitted that he is fully prepared to argue the matter and assist this Court. He has further submitted that final decision with respect to the premature release case of the petitioner would be taken by the competent authority after considering all the facts and circumstances in accordance with law within a period of two months from the date of receipt of certified copy of the present order.

Keeping in view the abovesaid facts and circumstances, the present Criminal Writ Petition is disposed of with directions to the official respondents to take a final decision with respect to the premature release case of the petitioner, which is stated to have been recommended by respondent No.3-Superintendent, Central Jail, Jalandhar at Kapurthala, within a period of two months from the date of receipt of certified copy of the present order.

Nothing stated above shall be construed as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

**19.05.2022**

*Pawan*

**(VIKAS BAHL)  
JUDGE**

**Whether speaking/reasoned:- Yes/No**

**Whether reportable:- Yes/No**