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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-24605-2022
Date of Decision:01.06.2022

Gurpreet Singh @ Gopi

....Petitioner(s)

Versus

State of Punjab

.....Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JASGURPREET SINGH PURI

Present: Mr. Vikas Arora, Advocate, for the petitioner.

JASGURPREET SINGH PURI, J. (Oral)

The present petition has been filed under Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the grant of anticipatory bail to the petitioner in FIR No.26 dated 08.02.2013, under Sections 307/324/382/148/149 of IPC and Section 25/27/54/59 of Arms Act, registered at Police Station Sadar, Amritsar, District Amritsar.

It has been submitted by the learned counsel for the petitioner that earlier the petitioner was granted bail on 18.11.2016 and thereafter, he had been appearing himself before the learned trial Court on the dates and thereafter, on 12.03.2020, he absented himself and thereafter, there was a lock down in the country due to Covid-19 Pandemic and thereafter, he did not appear on any date. He further submitted that thereafter he filed an application under Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the grant of anticipatory bail before the learned Additional Sessions Judge, Amritsar and

vide Annexure P-3 the learned Additional Sessions Judge, Amritsar has dismissed the anticipatory application but also issued directions to the learned trial Court that if the petitioner surrenders before the trial Court on or before the date fixed i.e 31.05.2022, then the trial Court should try to dispose of the regular bail application of the accused-applicant (Petitioner) within a span of one week from the date of filing of the bail application.

On a query being raised to the learned counsel for the petitioner as to whether he has now surrendered on 31.05.2022 or not, he has stated that the petitioner has not surrendered before the learned trial Court. On a further query being raised to the learned counsel for the petitioner as to why for such a long period i.e. from 12.03.2020 till date which is almost more than 2 years, he remained absent and the effect of Covid-19 pandemic has also diminished to a large extent, he could not give any justifiable explanation with regard to the same.

In view of the aforesaid position, the present petition is devoid of any merit, the same is hereby dismissed.

01.06.2022

rakesh

**(JASGURPREET SINGH PURI)
JUDGE**

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