

12.07.2023
Item no.33.
Court No.01.
S. De
(Allowed)

Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court
at Jalpaiguri

CRM (NDPS) No. 492 of 2023

In Re: An Application for Bail under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure filed on 26.06.2023 in connection with Kharibari Police Station Case No. 146 of 2022 dated 06.05.2022 under Section 21(c)/22(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

And

In the matter of : Prasenjit Ghosh. Petitioner.

Mr. Joydeep Kanti Bhowmik,
Mr. Sayantan Bhowmik,
Ms. Rikta Sarkar, for the Petitioner.

Mr. Abhijit Sarkar,
Mr. Tapan Bhattacharjee,
 for the State.

Admittedly, commercial quantity of contraband items was recovered from the possession of the petitioner. However, the petitioner says that the Memo of Arrest is irregular. There is no signature of an independent person against column no.10 of the Memo of Arrest. This is a mandatory requirement as pronounced by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of **D.K. Basu Vs. State of West Bengal** reported in **AIR 1997 Supreme Court 610**. Section 41B also mandates that Memo of Arrest shall be witnessed by an independent person. This is a gross illegality which entitles the petitioner to bail.

We have seen the material in the case diary including the Arrest Memo. Indeed, column no.10 is blank.

Accordingly, we are constrained to hold that the petitioner has been able to overcome the restriction under Section 37 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. We, therefore, allow the petitioner's prayer for bail also considering that chargesheet has been filed after completion of investigation and that the petitioner is in custody since May 2022.

Accordingly, we direct that the petitioner, namely **Prasenjit Ghosh** shall be released on bail upon furnishing a bond of Rs.20,000/- with two registered sureties of like amount each, to the satisfaction of the learned Additional Sessions Judge, 2nd Court, Siliguri on condition that the present accused petitioner shall appear before the learned Trial Court on each date of substantive hearing and shall not leave the jurisdiction of the learned Trial Court unless such condition has been relaxed by the learned Trial Court.

In the event the petitioner fails to adhere to any of the conditions stipulated above without justifiable cause, the trial court shall be at liberty to cancel the petitioner's bail in accordance with law without further reference to this Court.

The application for bail is, accordingly, allowed.

All parties shall act in terms of server copy of the order downloaded from the official website of this Court.

(Partha Sarathi Sen, J.)

(Arijit Banerjee, J.)