

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

211

**CRM-M-850-2023 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 17.01.2023**

Mahesh Narang ...Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana ...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE GURVINDER SINGH GILL

Present: Mr. Sanjeev Kodan, Advocate, for the petitioner.

Mr. Gurmeet Singh, AAG, Haryana.

GURVINDER SINGH GILL, J. (Oral)

1. The petitioner seeks grant of regular bail in respect of a case registered against him vide FIR No.65 dated 26.01.2022 at Police Station 32-33, Karnal, under Sections 420, 467, 468, 471 IPC; Section 12 of the Passports Act and Sections 7, 7A, 13 of the Prevention of Corruption Act.
2. The allegations, in nutshell, are that the petitioner had been facilitating issuance of passports to various persons on the basis of forged documents.
3. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner has submitted that he has falsely been implicated in the present case and that in any case, the passports had been issued after following due procedure including verification by the police.
4. On the other hand, learned State counsel has submitted that the complicity of the petitioner is clearly evident from the fact that when he was arrested, he led to recovery of 2 passports in his name, one of which

was issued from the Regional Passport Authority, Shimla and the other was issued from Regional Passport Authority, Delhi. It has been submitted that although the petitioner is not named in the FIR, wherein only Amandeep is named, but it was subsequently upon disclosure statements made by some other co-accused that the petitioner came to be nominated as an accused and that he had actively been working as an agent in connivance with other police officials for the purpose of issuance of passports on the basis of forged and fabricated documents. Learned State counsel has, however, informed that the petitioner has been behind bars since the last about 1 year and stands involved in 6 other cases. It has also been informed that charges are yet to be framed and as many as 24 PWs have been cited.

5. This Court has considered rival submissions.
6. Without commenting anything as regards the merits of the case, but having regard to the custody of the petitioner, which is about 1 year and also the fact that conclusion of trial is likely to take some time inasmuch as the trial has not even commenced till date and as many as 24 PWs have been cited, further detention of the petitioner will not serve any useful purpose. The petition, as such, is accepted and the petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail on his furnishing bail bonds/surety bonds to the satisfaction of learned trial Court/Chief Judicial Magistrate/Duty Magistrate concerned.

17.01.2023

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**(GURVINDER SINGH GILL)
JUDGE**

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