

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

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**CRM-M-1802-2023 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 18.01.2023**

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.72 dated 28.01.2022 at Police Station 32-33, Karnal, under Sections 420, 467, 468, 471, 166, 218, 120-B IPC; Section 12 of the Passports Act and Sections 7, 7A, 8, 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. Learned counsel has further submitted that since some of the co-accused have already been granted bail, the petitioner also deserves the same concession on grounds of parity.

4. On the other hand, learned State counsel while opposing the petition has submitted that in the present case some of the police officials were also hand & gloves with other accused and that false verification reports have been made in favour of the applicants (applicant for issuance of a passport) even though the said applicants were not residing at the given addresses. Learned State counsel has also submitted that the petitioner stands involved in several other identical cases and in these circumstances, does not deserve the concession of bail. Learned State counsel have, however, informed that the petitioner has been behind bars since the last more than 10 months and that charges are yet to be framed and as many as 30 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 more than 10 months 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 30 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.

18.01.2023

Vimal

(GURVINDER SINGH GILL)
JUDGEWhether speaking/reasoned:
Whether reportable:**Yes/No**
Yes/No