

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

225

CRM-M-19189-2023 (O&M)

Date of decision: 27.07.2023

Gurmeet Singh Alias Meet

....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMAN CHAUDHARY

Present : Mr. G.S. Sandhu, Advocate for the petitioner

Mr. H.S. Sullar, Sr. DAG Punjab

AMAN CHAUDHARY, J.

1. Prayer in the present petition filed under Section 439 Cr.P.C. is for the grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.253 dated 03.11.2022, registered under Sections 21(c), 29, 61 and 85 of the NDPS Act at Police Station Sadar Fazilka, District Fazilka

2. Learned counsel contends that the petitioner is in custody for the last more than 6 months. Co-accused Jagdish, who is one of the three accused persons from whom the alleged recovery of contraband had been effected, nominated the petitioner in his disclosure statement. No recovery effected from the petitioner and besides the above, there is no evidence that has emerged to connect him to the case. He relies on **Tofan Singh vs. State of Tamil Nadu**, (2021) 4 SCC 1. He is

not involved in any other case. Challan stands presented on 19.04.2023, however, charges are yet to be framed. In all there are 19 witnesses. Reliance is placed on the order passed by co-ordinate Bench of this Court in **Sandeep Kumar @ Gogi vs. State of Haryana** in CRM-M-24505-2022 dated 07.12.2022, wherein also the petitioner was implicated on the basis of disclosure statement, no recovery had been effected from him and he was involved in one more case under the NDPS Act.

3. The custody certificate dated 25.07.2023, filed by learned State counsel is taken on record. As per the same, the petitioner is behind bars for 6 months and 20 days.

4. Learned State counsel opposes the bail on the ground that petitioner has been specifically named in the disclosure statement of co-accused from whom recovery of contraband in question has been effected. He is however unable to controvert the submissions regarding the stage of the case and petitioner being not involved in any other case.

5. Heard.

6. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, in particular that the petitioner is in custody for 6 months and 20 days; involvement is on the basis of a disclosure statement; no recovery has been effected from him; not involved in any other case; challan stands presented on 19.04.2023, however, charges are yet to be framed; in all there are 19 prosecution witnesses, the trial is likely to take considerable time and thus his further incarceration would not serve any useful purpose, as such the present petition for grant of regular bail deserves to be allowed.

7. As a result, the present petition is allowed. The petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail, subject to his furnishing bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned and subject to him not being required in any other case. The petitioner shall abide by the following conditions:-

- (i). The petitioner will not tamper with the evidence during the trial.
- (ii). The petitioner will not pressurize/ intimidate the prosecution witnesses.
- (iii). The petitioner will appear before the trial Court on each and every date fixed, unless is exempted by a specific order of Court.
- (iv). The petitioner shall not commit an offence similar to the offence of which, he is an accused, or for commission of which he is suspected of.
- (v). The petitioner shall not directly or indirectly coerce, induce, threaten or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case so as to dissuade him/ her from disclosing such facts to the Court or to any police officer or tamper with the evidence in any manner.
- (vi). The petitioner shall not in any manner misuse his liberty.
- (vii). The petitioner shall furnish his address and mobile number to the Trial Court forthwith and shall not change the same till the conclusion of the trial and in case for any reason, the petitioner seeks to change any of the aforesaid, the same shall be done only with prior intimation to the learned Trial Court, stating the reason for the same.
- (viii). The petitioner shall not leave the country without prior permission of the trial Court.
- (ix). The trial Court/Duty Magistrate may impose any other condition, as deemed appropriate while releasing the petitioner.

8. It is made abundantly clear that in case there is any breach of the aforesaid conditions, the State shall be at liberty to seek cancellation of bail as granted to the petitioner by this order.

9. In view of the above, it is clarified that the observations made herein are limited for the purpose of present proceedings and would not be construed as

an opinion on the merits of the case and the trial would proceed independently of the aforesaid observations.

(AMAN CHAUDHARY)
JUDGE

27.07.2023
S.Sharma(syr)

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