

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

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**CRM-M No. 24400 of 2023
Date of Decision : 18.5.2023**

*Ranjit Singh**..... Petitioner**versus**State of Punjab**..... Respondent*

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE TRIBHUVAN DAHIYA

Present: Mr. S. S. Maini, Advocate, for the petitioner

Mr. Subhash Godara, Addl. AG, Punjab

TRIBHUVAN DAHIYA J. (ORAL):

This is a petition under Section 439 Cr.P.C. seeking regular bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.39 dated 16.2.2022 under Sections 363, 366-A IPC (Section 376 IPC added later on) registered at Police Station Sadar Faridkot, District Faridkot.

2. Briefly, the FIR was lodged on a statement of the victim's father that her daughter, aged about 16-17 years, was found missing from home on 5.2.2022. The family could not locate her anywhere nearby. On enquiry, he came to know that the petitioner had taken her away for solemnizing marriage with consent of his parents.

3. It is submitted by learned counsel for the petitioner that material prosecution witnesses, i.e., victim, complainant, victim's mother and brother, have already been examined before the trial Court and none of them has supported the prosecution version. The petitioner is in custody since 7.5.2022 and has no other case pending against him.

4. Learned State counsel, on instructions from ASI Sukhdata Pal, does not dispute the facts aforestated. He, however, submits that ten more official witnesses are to be examined.

5. Keeping in view the facts aforestated, no useful purpose will be served by confining the petitioner to custody any longer. Material Prosecution witnesses already stands examined and only officials remain. There is no apprehension their being influenced by the petitioner.

6. Accordingly, the petition is allowed. The petitioner is ordered to be released on bail to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned.

(TRIBHUVAN DAHIYA)
JUDGE

18.5.2023

Ashwani

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