

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

**CRM-M-34371-2021
Date of Decision: 13.02.2023**

SANDEEP SINGH

... PETITIONER

V/S

STATE OF PUNJAB

... RESPONDENT

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIVEK PURI

Present: Mr. J.S.Ghumman, Advocate for the petitioner.

Ms. Ruchika Sabherwal, DAG Punjab.

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VIVEK PURI, J. (ORAL)

The petitioner is seeking regular bail in case bearing FIR No. 10 dated 25.01.2021 under Sections 420, 120-B IPC & Section 13 of Punjab Travel Professionals (Regulation) Act, registered at Police Station Smalsar, District Moga.

Custody certificate has been taken on record.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that as per the allegations, a sum of Rs. 18 Lakhs was procured from Bhupinder Singh and Amrit Pal Singh for sending them abroad. A sum of Rs. 3 Lakhs allegedly came in the account of the petitioner. In terms of the order dated 11.07.2022, a sum of Rs. 3 Lakhs has already been deposited in the trial Court. All the accused except the petitioner are on bail and the offences are triable by the Court of learned Judicial Magistrate First Class. The petitioner is in custody for a period of 1 year and 9 months and not involved in any other case.

Learned State counsel, on instructions of ASI Satnam Kaur, has opposed the bail application on the score that there are serious allegations of human trafficking levelled against the petitioner and out of 35, only 3 witnesses have been examined till date.

It is significant to note that the petitioner is in custody for a period of 1 year and 9 months and not involved in any other case. So far only 3 out of 35 witnesses have been examined till date. The petitioner has already deposited a sum of Rs. 3 Lakhs in pursuance of the order dated 11.07.2022. The amount was directed to be deposited subject to outcome of trial. The conclusion of trial is likely to take some time and no fruitful purpose would be served by detaining the petitioner in further custody.

As such, sufficient mitigating circumstances are made out to extend the concession of bail to the petitioner. Therefore, without making any expression of opinion on the merits of the case, it is ordered that the petitioner be released on regular bail subject to his furnishing fresh bail bonds/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the concerned trial Court/Chief Judicial Magistrate/Duty Magistrate.

The petition is allowed.

13.02.2023

Janki

(VIVEK PURI)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No

Whether reportable : Yes/No