

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

238

CRM-M-31491-2023 (O&M)
Date of decision: 11.09.2023

Balkaur Singh @ Kari

....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMAN CHAUDHARY

Present : Mr. Imaan Singh Khara, 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.218 dated 13.12.2022, registered under Section 22(c) of NDPS Act, 1985 (Section 29 of NDPS Act added later on vide DDR No.20 dated 15.12.2022), at Police Station Talwandi Sabo, District Bathinda.

2. Learned counsel contends that the petitioner is in custody for about 5 months. His name surfaced based on the disclosure statement of co-accused Lovepreet Singh @ Labi, from whom 150 tablets of Covidol SR 100 were recovered. No recovery has been effected from the petitioner. Charges have been framed on 01.07.2023, however, out of 14 prosecution witnesses, none has been examined. He is not involved in any other case under the NDPS Act.

3. The custody certificate dated 10.09.2023 has been filed by learned State counsel. As per the same, the petitioner is behind bars for 4 months and 21

days.

4. Learned State counsel opposes the bail on the ground that there are serious allegations against the petitioner made by co-accused in his disclosure statement that the contraband was supplied by him and he is involved in 4 more cases under the Excise Act. He is however unable to controvert the submissions with regard to stage of the case, the petitioner being not involved in any other case under the NDPS Act and no recovery had been effected from him.

5. Heard.

6. Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, in particular that the petitioner is in custody for the last 4 months and 21 days; not involved in any other case under the NDPS Act; charges stand framed on 01.07.2023, however, none out of 14 prosecution witnesses, has been examined so far; the trial is likely to take a considerable time, thus his further incarceration would not serve any useful purpose, 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 his 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

September 11, 2023
M.Kamra

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