

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

207

CRM-M-35205-2022

DATE OF DECISION: 27.07.2023

DOMINIC SAHOTA

... Petitioner (s)

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB

... Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL

Present: Mr.Gopal Singh Nahel, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Shubham Kaushik, AAG, Punjab.

ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL, J. (ORAL)

The petitioner is seeking regular bail in FIR No.16 dated 14.07.2021, under Section 7 of the P.C. (Amendment) Act, 1988 as amended by P.C. (Amendment) Act, 2018, Sections 420, 120-B IPC and Sections 465, 467, 468, 471 IPC added later on, registered at Police Station Vigilance Bureau Range, Amritsar, District Tarn Taran.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that it is alleged that the petitioner had taken money on the pretext of providing job to several persons. He further submits that the co-accused namely Prithipal Singh was arrested while taking bribe money of Rs.50,000/-. He was granted regular bail in CRM-M-46311 of 2022 on 27.02.2023 after a period of 1 year and 7 months. The petitioner is in custody for over 2 years. He further submits that it is alleged that the incriminating material including stamps etc. had been recovered from the petitioner but no money had been recovered from him.

CRM-M-35205-2022

Custody certificate filed by the learned State counsel is taken on record which indicates that the petitioner is in custody for 2 years and 3 days. Learned State counsel submits that the allegations against the petitioner are very serious as he was part of the racket which was duping innocent persons on the pretext of providing them government jobs. Incriminating material like rubber stamps, letter heads etc. were also recovered from the petitioner. He, however, upon instructions from SI Som Nath, is not in a position to controvert the submissions of the learned counsel for the petitioner that no money had been recovered from the petitioner. He also submits that none of 19 prosecution witnesses has been examined.

Heard. In view of the above, especially when the petitioner is in custody for over 2 years, co-accused has been granted regular bail and conclusion of the trial is likely to take some time, I deem it a fit case to grant the concession of regular bail to the petitioner.

Therefore, without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, the instant petition is allowed. The petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail on his furnishing requisite bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned.

(ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL)
JUDGE

27.07.2023
SwarnjitS

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