

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M No.37763 of 2023

Date of decision: 20th September, 2023

Ranjit Singh @ Laddi

... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANJARI NEHRU KAUL

Present: Mr. P.K.S. Phoolka, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Amit Rana, Sr. Deputy Advocate General, Punjab
for the respondent/State.

MANJARI NEHRU KAUL, J. (ORAL)

1. The petitioner is seeking the concession of bail under Section 439 Cr.P.C. in case FIR No.0035 dated 07.06.2023 under Sections 489-B/489-C IPC registered at Police Station Sadar Rampura, District Bathinda.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that offence under Section 473 IPC was added later on. On his oral prayer, Section 473 IPC is added to the prayer clause of the petition. Registry is directed to make necessary compliance.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner inter alia contends that a false case has been planted upon the petitioner for having procured fake currency notes along with co-accused in the sum of ₹ 15,500/- (13 currency notes in the denomination of ₹ 100/- each and the remaining

notes in the denomination of ₹ 500/- each) from one Karnail Baba. Learned counsel submits that no doubt, a secret information was received qua the involvement of the petitioner with three others, however strangely, one of the three persons, who too had been named in the secret information and who admittedly was driving the vehicle from which all the accused were nabbed, had been declared innocent by the police. Learned counsel has further submitted that it is not even the case of the prosecution that the alleged fake currency notes were being provided by the petitioner. It has also been submitted that the petitioner has clean antecedents as he is not involved in any other criminal case. Learned counsel has lastly submitted that since investigation, in the case in hand, is complete and even challan stands presented, the petitioner be enlarged on bail as 13 prosecution witnesses have been cited and charges are yet to be framed.

4. Per contra, learned State counsel while opposing the prayer and submissions made by the counsel opposite, on instructions from ASI Sukhmander Singh, has submitted that a secret information was received qua the involvement of four persons, pursuant to which the FIR in question came to be lodged, and thereafter, the petitioner along with the three others was nabbed and the fake currency notes in the sum of ₹15,500/- were recovered from the occupants of the car including the petitioner. However, he has not been able to controvert the submissions made by the counsel opposite that the driver of the vehicle, who too had been named in the secret information, had been exonerated and placed in

column No.2. On a pointed query put to the learned State counsel qua the antecedents of the petitioner, he, on instructions, has informed the Court that the petitioner is not involved in any other criminal case. It has also not been disputed that after the challan was presented, charges have not yet been framed and as many as 13 prosecution witnesses have been cited by the prosecution.

5. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the relevant material on record.

6. The petitioner has now been in custody since 07.06.2023. Trial will take considerable time to conclude as charges are likely to be framed on the next date of hearing fixed before the trial Court. The recovery of the fake currency notes already stands effected. In the facts and circumstances as enumerated hereinabove, this Court, thus, deems it fit to extend the concession of bail to the petitioner. The petition as such is allowed and the petitioner is admitted to bail to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate. However, it is made clear that anything observed hereinabove shall not be construed to be an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

(MANJARI NEHRU KAUL)
JUDGE

September 20, 2023
rps

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