

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

272

CRM-M-41555-2022 (O&M)

Date of decision: 22.02.2023

SONA SINGH

....Petitioner(s)

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB

...Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMAN CHAUDHARY

Present : Mr. Parveen Chauhan, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Kamalpreet Bawa, AAG Punjab.

AMAN CHAUDHARY. J.

The present petition has been filed under Section 439 Cr.P.C. for the grant of regular bail to the petitioner in respect of FIR No.143 dated 28.06.2022, under Section 21(c), 25 and 29 of NDPS Act, registered at Police Station Special Task Force, STF Wing, District SAS Nagar, Mohali.

Learned counsel contends that the petitioner is in custody for the last 7 months and 26 days. He was not named in the FIR. His name surfaced based on disclosure statement suffered by co-accused Jashandeep Singh from whom commercial quantity of contraband was recovered. He was involved in one more case, wherein he stands acquitted. Charges in this case were framed on 12.01.2023. In all, there are 20 prosecution witnesses.

Learned State counsel has produced the custody certificate dated 21.02.2023, which is taken on record. As per the same the custody of the petitioner is 7 months and 26 days. He opposed the bail on the ground that the commercial quantity was recovered from the main accused Jashandeep Singh,

who had disclosed the name of the petitioner, however, there is no recovery affected from the petitioner. He is unable to controvert the submissions made by learned counsel for the petitioner, that he is not involved in any other case under the NDPS Act and with regard to the stage of trial.

Heard.

In view of the facts and circumstances of the case, in particular that the petitioner is in custody for the last 7 months and 26 days; he was not named in the FIR; recovery has been affected from co-accused Jashandeep Singh; charges were framed on 12.01.2023; in all, there are 20 prosecution witnesses; he was involved in one other case, wherein, he stands acquitted; the trial is likely to take a considerable time, his further detention behind bars would not serve any useful purpose, thus the present petition for grant of regular bail deserves to be allowed.

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 him not being required in any other case. The petitioner shall abide by the following conditions:-

1. The petitioner will not tamper with the evidence during the trial.
2. The petitioner will not pressurize/ intimidate the prosecution witnesses.
3. The petitioner will appear before the trial Court on each and every date fixed, unless is exempted by a specific order of Court.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. The petitioner shall not in any manner misuse his liberty.
7. 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.

8. The petitioner shall deposit his passport, if any, with the Trial Court forthwith and in case, he does not have the passport, he shall furnish a specific affidavit in this regard.

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.

In view of the above, this Court makes it clarified that the observations made herein above are limited for the purpose of present proceedings and would not be construed as any opinion on the merits of the case and the trial would proceed independently of the aforesaid observations.

(AMAN CHAUDHARY)
JUDGE

February 22, 2023

M.Kamra

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