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(222) IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

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Date of Decision: 12.01.2024

KULDEEP SINGH @ KEEPA

... Petitioner

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JASJIT SINGH BEDI

Present: Mr. H.S. Sidhu, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Harkanwar Jeet Singh, Asstt. A.G., Punjab.

JASJIT SINGH BEDI, J.

The prayer in the petition under Section 439 Cr.P.C. is for the grant of regular bail in case bearing FIR No.170 dated 21.08.2022 registered under Section 21 of the NDPS Act, 1985 at Police Station Kharar, District SAS Nagar.

2. The brief facts of the case are that while the police party was on patrolling duty, a Creta Car bearing Registration No.PB-65-AY-8916 was seen coming from the Kharar side. It was signalled to stop but the driver of the car tried to turn back. He was apprehended on suspicion and disclosed his name as Gurtinder Singh alias Taina (granted bail vide order dated 17.08.2023 passed in CRM-M-18345-2023) son of Balwinder Singh. The person sitting alongside him disclosed her name as Navdeep Kaur (granted bail vide order dated 04.08.2023 passed in CRM-M-36880-2023) wife of Gurvinder Singh alias Saili and the youth sitting on the rear seat disclosed his name as Kuldeep

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Singh alias Keepa (petitioner) son of Amrik Singh. On the basis of suspicion, the dash board of the car was checked and 260 grams of heroin in a envelope came to be recovered.

3. The learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in the present case. He has been in custody since 21.08.2022 and none of the 16 prosecution witnesses have been examined so far. Therefore, the trial of the present case was not likely to be concluded anytime soon. Even otherwise, as a recovery from the petitioner was marginally above the commercial quantity of 250 grams of heroin, the petitioner was entitled to the grant of bail as the similar concession had been granted to the co-accused Navdeep Kaur and Gurtinder Singh @ Tehna

4. On the other hand, the learned State counsel contends that the commercial quantity of contraband has been recovered from the petitioner. Therefore, he was not entitled to the concession of bail in view of the bar contained under Section 37 of the NDPS Act. He, however, concedes that the petitioner is a first time offender, in custody since 21.08.2022 and none of the 16 prosecution witnesses had been examined so far.

5. I have heard the learned counsel for the parties.

6. In the cases of 'Sukhchain Singh @ Manga Versus State of Punjab, CRM-M-7857-2022 decided on 04.04.2022, Pardeep Singh versus State of Punjab, CRM-M-46244-2022 decided on 19.01.2023, Hari Yadav @ Haiya versus State of Punjab (CRM-M-37645-2021)' decided on 11.11.2022, 'Jang Kanwar Versus State of Punjab (CRM-M-53415-2021)' decided on 19.01.2022, 'Shankar Prashad Chanau Versus The State of

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Punjab, CRM-M-24090-2020, decided on 27.08.2020, Gurpreet Kumar Versus State of Punjab, CRM-M-17021-2021, decided on 31.08.2021, Salim Versus State of Haryana, CRM-M-42436-2020, decided on 24.02.2021, Gagandeep Versus State of Punjab, CRM-M-3055-2021, decided on 27.01.2021, Gurpreet Singh @ Gopi Versus State of Punjab, CRM-M-41039-2019, decided on 26.02.2020, Dalbara Singh Versus State of Punjab, CRM-M-47880-2022 decided on 16.01.2023, and Vivek Watts versus State of Punjab, CRM-M-13791-2022 decided on 15.02.2023, where the recovery from the accused was marginally above the commercial quantity for the respective contraband in each case, the Court granted bail to the accused therein.

7. In the present case, the alleged recovery from the petitioner is 260 grams of heroin, which is marginally above the commercial quantity of 250 grams. In this situation, the provisions of Section 37 of the NDPS Act can be relaxed to an extent and the case of the petitioner can be considered for the grant of bail, moreso, when he is in custody since 21.08.2022, none of the 16 prosecution witnesses have been examined so far and his co-accused have been granted bail.

8. Thus, without commenting upon the merits of the case, the present petition is allowed and the petitioner, namely, Kuldeep Singh @ Keepa son of Amrik Singh is ordered to be released on bail to the satisfaction of the Trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned.

9. The petitioner shall appear on the first Monday of every month before the police station concerned till the conclusion of the trial and furnish

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an affidavit each time that he is not involved in any other case other than the present case.

10. In addition, the petitioner (or someone on his behalf) shall prepare an FDR in the sum of Rs.1,00,000/- and deposit the same with the Trial Court. The same would be liable to be forfeited as per law in case of the absence of the petitioner from Trial without sufficient cause.

11. The petition stands disposed of.

(JASJIT SINGH BEDI)
JUDGE

12.01.2024

JITESH

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