

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

**CRM-M No. 9143 of 2024 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 11.03.2024**

Prem Singla

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

..... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARKESH MANUJA

Present: Mr. Arnav Ghai, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Kewal Singh, Additional Advocate General, Punjab

HARKESH MANUJA, J. (ORAL)

The petitioner, by way of present petition filed under Section 439 Cr.P.C., seeks grant of regular bail pending trial in case bearing FIR No.142 dated 20.09.2023, under Sections 21(1) and 4(1) of Mines and Minerals (Regulation of Development) Act, 1957, registered at Police Station Nangal, Rupnagar, wherein he has been implicated on account of allegations of illegal mining, thereby causing loss to the State Exchequer.

[2] Reply by way of affidavit dated 05/11.03.2024 of Sh. Ajay Singh, PPS, DSP, Nangal, District Rupnagar, filed on behalf of respondent-State of Punjab, is taken on record. Copy thereof be supplied to the opposite side.

[3] Learned State Counsel vehemently opposes the prayer for grant of regular bail to the petitioner while referring to the involvement of the petitioner in seven more cases of similar nature.

[4] I have heard learned counsel for the parties and gone through the paper-book.

[5] In the present case, the investigation already stands concluded with the filing of challan; the petitioner is already behind the bars since 11.12.2023, i.e. for the past three months and the conclusion of trial may take some time, besides he is already on bail in other cases registered against him. Considering the aforesaid facts, I do not find any justification to extend the incarceration of the petitioner.

[6] In view of the above, but without commenting anything on the merits of the case, lest it may prejudice the trial, the present petition is **allowed** and the petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail on his furnishing adequate bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the Trial Court / Illaqa Magistrate / Duty Magistrate concerned.

[7] It is made clear that this order may not be construed as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

[8] Pending miscellaneous application(s), if any, shall also disposed off.

March 11, 2024

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**(HARKESH MANUJA)
JUDGE**

<i>Whether Speaking/reasoned</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>
<i>Whether Reportable</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>