

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

CRM-M-12000-2024
Decided on: 02.04.2024

...Petitioner

Versus

...Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANOOP CHITKARA

Present: Mr. Kanhiya Soni, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Kanav Bansal, DAG, Punjab.

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ANOOP CHITKARA, J.

FIR No.	Dated	Police Station	Sections
1	12.01.2024	Vigilance Bureau, District SAS Nagar	7 of PC (Amendment) Act 2018

1. The petitioner, incarcerated upon his arrest in the FIR captioned above, had come up before this Court under Section 439 CrPC seeking regular bail.

2. On 13.03.2024, when the matter was listed for first time, this Court asked the State to file response. Thereafter on 18.03.2024, reply was filed and after considering the nature of allegations and other factors, this Court granted interim bail and one of the reason of granting bail was that the petitioner had voluntarily agreed to declare his assets, which was mentioned in para 16 of the bail order.

3. Petitioner's counsel submits that they had handed over the affidavits to the Investigator and voluntarily complied with the order of declaring assets and it is submitted that they shall not claim such declaration as self incrimination, violation of Article 20/21 of Constitution of India or any other fundamental right/law. Counsel further submits that the custodial investigation would serve no purpose whatsoever, and the pre-trial incarceration would cause an irreversible injustice to the petitioner and family. The investigator may verify such assets if required and proceed in accordance with law, if any anomalies found. The concerned investigator is further directed to forward one original copy of the affidavit to the petitioner's employer within two weeks from today.

4. The State’s counsel does not dispute the contention made by counsel for the petitioner, but opposes the bail.

5. I have gone through the record and heard counsel for the parties.

6. Facts of the case have already been mentioned in detail in the order dated 18.03.2024.

7. Given the facts and circumstances peculiar to the case coupled with the fact that petitioner had voluntarily declared assets, nature of allegations and also the period of custody which is more than two months, there would be no justification for further pre-trial incarceration.

Petition is allowed. Interim order dated 18.03.2024, is made absolute. All pending applications, if any, stand disposed.

(ANOOP CHITKARA)
JUDGE

02.04.2024
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Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes
Whether reportable: No.