



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRM-M No.15487 of 2024
Date of decision: 30th July, 2024

Anupam Singla
... Petitioner
Versus
State of Haryana
... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANJARI NEHRU KAUL

Present: Mr. T.S. Attariwala, Advocate for the petitioner.
Mr. Gagandeep S. Chhina, Asst. Advocate General, Haryana
for the respondent/State.

MANJARI NEHRU KAUL, J.

1. The petitioner is seeking the concession of bail under Section 439 Cr.P.C. in case FIR No.12 dated 07.01.2019 under Sections 201, 420, 467, 468, 471, 120-B of the IPC registered at Police Station City Sirsa, District Sirsa.
2. Learned counsel for the petitioner asserts that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in the present case, based solely on a disclosure statement allegedly made by a co-accused, with no additional evidence collected by the Investigating Agency linking him to the crime. As per allegations, the petitioner, along with other accused, who are the actual owners and beneficiaries of the firm, created documents to register bogus firms. These firms allegedly issued fake invoices to claim fraudulent input tax credits without actual transactions, causing significant losses to the State Exchequer. It has been asserted that the



petitioner had no involvement in the registration or operation of any firm whatsoever and was not even a beneficiary of these firms. The purported recovery of cheque books and banking documents from the premises of the petitioner has been fabricated. Furthermore, the petitioner has been in custody since 07.01.2021, and the trial has not yet concluded, making his continued incarceration pointless.

3. Per contra, learned State counsel has vehemently opposed the prayer and submissions made by the counsel opposite, by arguing that he is involved in a massive scam amounting to crores of rupees. The petitioner is the prime accused; recovery of blank cheques, 110 debit/credit cards, identity proof cards, numerous SIM cards, and documents related to the firms of co-accused were recovered from him. Besides this, the petitioner is involved in 25 other cases of identical nature, with convictions in 5 cases and acquittals in 2. Additionally, it has been argued by the learned State counsel that the petitioner had floated almost 100 bogus firms which resulted in huge losses to the State Exchequer. Learned State counsel, on instructions, has further contended that the delay in the conclusion of the trial has also been partly on account of the petitioner's involvement in a number of other criminal cases for which he is being taken on production warrants to different courts of the State.

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



5. Prima facie, there are serious allegations against the petitioner; he allegedly created bogus firms to obtain fraudulent input tax claims amounting to crores of rupees through fake bills and invoices. As per the custody certificate placed on record by the learned State counsel, it indicates that, apart from the present case, the petitioner is involved in multiple other criminal cases of a similar nature, including some under the Prisons Act and for offences under Section 394, 397 of the IPC.

6. This Court is conscious that the petitioner has been in custody for over four years, having been arrested on 07.01.2021. It however, cannot ignore his involvement in multiple serious criminal cases, that have significantly impacted the Country's economic health. As per instructions received by the learned State counsel, the delay in concluding the trial is partly due to the petitioner's involvement in other criminal cases, requiring his presence in different courts.

7. Given the above facts and circumstances, and the gravity of the offences alleged against the petitioner, he does not deserve the concession of bail. The petition stands dismissed. 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.

8. At this stage, a prayer has been made by learned counsel for the petitioner to direct the trial Court to conclude the trial expeditiously.



9. In the wake of the prayer made by the learned counsel for the petitioner and long incarceration of the petitioner, this Court deems it fit to issue directions to the trial Court to make earnest efforts to conclude the trial expeditiously, preferably within the next six months. The prosecution as well as the defence counsel shall extend full cooperation in the expeditious conclusion of the trial and would not take any unnecessary adjournments.

(MANJARI NEHRU KAUL)
JUDGE

July 30, 2024
rps

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