

2024:PHHC:068730



228 IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CRA-S-1711-2024 (O&M)
DECIDED ON: 15.05.2024

ASHISH SINGH @ LADDI

.....APPELLANT

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB

.....RESPONDENT

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANDEEP MOUDGIL.

Present: Mr. Shubham, Advocate
Legal Aid Counsel for the appellant.

Mr. Jasjit Singh Rattu, DAG, Punjab.

SANDEEP MOUDGIL, J (ORAL)

1. Though the application seeking suspension of sentence of the applicant/appellant has been listed for hearing today but with the consent of learned counsel for the respective parties, the main appeal is taken on board for final hearing.

2. The instant appeal has been preferred by accused Ashish Singh @ Laddi, challenging judgment of conviction and order of sentence dated 16.11.2023 passed by Judge, Special Court, Faridkot, whereby the appellant-Ashish Singh @ Laddi has been sentenced to undergo RI for a period of 3 years along-with fine to the tune of Rs.25,000/- and in default thereof, to further undergo RI for six months for commission of offence under Section 22 (b) of NDPS Act for keeping 510 intoxicant tablets in 51 strips containing Alprazolam

with total weight of 78.795 grams.

3. At the very outset, learned counsel for the appellant contends that he does not want to challenge the conviction of the appellant on merits. However, he submits that in view of the circumstances of the case, the sentence awarded by the trial Court is on higher side.

4. Here it would be pertinent to mention that the appellant did not challenge his conviction on merits and only confined his relief qua quantum of sentence. This Court has also scrutinized the impugned judgment as well as the relevant documents/evidence and is of the considered view that there is no scope for any interference in impugned judgment as far as the conviction of the appellant is concerned. As such, the conviction of the appellant is upheld.

5. As far as quantum of sentence is concerned, there are mitigating circumstances to take a lenient view in the matter of sentence awarded by the trial court. The appellant has undergone the actual sentence of 7 months and 11 days out of total substantive sentence of 3 years, as of now, as per the custody certificate of the appellant filed by learned State counsel in Court today. Thus, this court is of the considered view that a chance be given to the petitioners to reform & improve himself; to become a good citizen; and to lead a peaceful & harmonious life. Though, it is evident that the appellant is also involved in another case under NDPS Act but in that case he has already undergone the sentence.

6. Taking into consideration the above narrated discussion as well as the fact that the appellant has not challenged his conviction on merits, while affirming his conviction, the order of sentence is modified to the extent to the period already undergone by him with no change in fine clause.

7. With the aforesaid modification in the quantum of sentence, the present appeal stands disposed off.
8. The appellant is ordered to be released forthwith in case he is not required in any other case.
9. The criminal misc. application i.e. CRM-18609-2024 seeking suspension of sentence of the applicant/appellant is disposed off, as having been rendered infructuous.

15.05.2024
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(SANDEEP MOUDGIL)
JUDGE

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