

2024:PHHC:097713



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

209

**CRM-M No.24196 of 2023 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 30.07.2024**

Ranjit Singh

... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA

**Present: Ms. Harpreet Maini, Advocate,
for the petitioner.**

**Ms. Ruchika Sabherwal, Sr. DAG, Punjab,
for the respondent-State.**

MANISHA BATRA, J. (Oral)

1. The present one is the second petition for grant of regular bail as filed by the petitioner in case arising out of FIR No.87 dated 18.05.2017 registered under Sections 21, 22 and 25 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 at Police Station City Moga, District Moga, which has been registered against him on the allegations that as on 18.05.2017, he along with the co-accused Balraj Singh was found in possession of 500 tablets of Elprajelam Mindcare which are intoxicating substance. The petitioner had been extended benefit of regular bail by this Court on 06.03.2018. He absented himself on

2024:PHHC:097713



06.02.2020. His bail was cancelled and bonds were forfeited to the State on 24.11.2021. Proceedings under Section 82 of Cr.P.C. were initiated against him and he was declared a proclaimed person on 02.07.2022. He was again arrested on 12.10.2022 and is in custody since then. He had filed an application for grant of bail which had been dismissed by the trial Court vide order dated 06.04.2023.

2. The present petition has been filed by the petitioner on the grounds and it is argued by his counsel that he is in custody since 12.10.2022. Nine prosecution witnesses stand examined. The trial is likely to take more time. He undertakes to appear on each and every date of hearing. Therefore, it is argued that he deserves to be extended benefit of bail.

3. Status report has been submitted by respondent-State. It is argued by learned State counsel that the petitioner has criminal antecedents. One another case of similar nature and two cases under the provisions of Indian Penal Code are pending against him. He had been declared a proclaimed offender earlier and there are chances of his absconding against if extended benefit of bail. Therefore, it is urged that the petition does not deserve to be allowed.

4. I have heard learned counsel for the petitioner as well as learned State counsel at considerable length and have gone through the record.

5. The petitioner had been extended benefit of regular bail in this case earlier. He, however, absented himself and was declared a proclaimed person and now he is in custody continuously since 12.10.2022. Trial is likely to take time. No useful purpose would be served by detaining him in

2024:PHHC:097713



custody any more during trial. As such, I am of the considered opinion that he deserves to be released on bail at this stage. Hence, the petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be admitted to bail subject to his furnishing personal as well as surety bonds to the satisfaction of learned trial Court and further subject to the condition that he shall disclose his present as well as permanent address before the learned trial Court at the time of furnishing of bonds and shall also give copy of his Aadhar Card, PAN Card, if any, and details of his mobile phone number to the learned trial Court and in case, any change in his address or mobile phone number takes place, then he shall inform about the same to the learned trial Court during trial of the case.

6. In case of violation of any of the above conditions, the jurisdictional Court shall be empowered to consider the application for cancellation, if any, and pass appropriate orders in accordance with law.
7. It is, however, clarified that observations made hereinabove shall not be construed as an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.
8. Miscellaneous application(s), if any, also stand disposed of.

30.07.2024
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(MANISHA BATRA)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned
Whether reportable

Yes/No
Yes/No