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

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**CRM-M-32300-2023 (O&M)
Date of decision: 30.08.2024**

Sarabjit Singh @ Sabhu**...Petitioner**

Versus

State of Punjab**...Respondent****CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANISHA BATRA**

Present:- Mr. Ranbir Singh Sekhon, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. A. S. Samra, AAG, Punjab.

MANISHA BATRA, J. (Oral)

1. Prayer in this petition, filed under Section 439 Cr.P.C., is for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in FIR No. 142 dated 25.09.2022, registered under Section 22 of the NDPS Act, 1985 at Police Station Kot Ise Khan, District Moga.

2. Brief facts of the case relevant for the disposal of the present petition are that on 25.09.2022, on receiving a secret information that the petitioner was involved in selling intoxicant tablets, he was apprehended by a police party and the recovery of 210 intoxicant tablets was effected from him. The petitioner was formally arrested at the spot. After completion of necessary investigation and usual formalities, *challan* under Section 173 Cr.P.C. was presented in the Court and presently, the petitioner is facing trial

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for commission of aforementioned offence. He had moved an application for grant of regular bail before the trial Court but the same had been dismissed, vide order dated 09.12.2022.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner has argued that he has been falsely implicated in this case. He was not present at the spot disclosed in the FIR and no recovery of contraband was effected from him. Rather, the contraband allegedly recovered from the petitioner was planted by the police officials. More so, no independent witness was joined at the time of effecting alleged recovery. It is further argued that the mandatory provisions of Sections 42 and 50 of the NDPS Act were also not complied with. The petitioner is in judicial custody since 25.09.2022. The trial is likely to take time. No useful purpose would be served by keeping him in custody anymore. Therefore, it is urged that the petition deserves to be allowed and the petitioner deserves to be granted benefit of regular bail.

4. *Per contra*, learned State counsel, on the basis of the status report, has vehemently argued that the petitioner is not entitled to get benefit of bail as a commercial quantity of the contraband was recovered from him. He was nabbed at the spot. His story regarding false implication and plantation of the recovered contraband is concocted one. FSL report has been received, as per which, *Etizolam* salt has been found in the recovered intoxicant tablets and the total weight of the tablets was found to be 28.14 grams, which falls under commercial quantity. It is further argued that since the recovery of the contraband effected from the petitioner falls under the commercial quantity and he is involved in one more case under the NDPS Act, the rigors of Section 37 of the NDPS Act would be attracted against

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him and he is not entitled to get benefit of bail. The trial may be expedited. The petitioner may involve in drug smuggling again, if extended benefit of bail. Hence, it is urged that the petition is liable to be dismissed.

5. I have heard learned counsel for the parties at considerable length and have also perused the material placed on record.

6. As per the allegations, the petitioner was apprehended by the police party and the recovery of 210 loose intoxicant tablets was effected from him. As per FSL report, the total weight of the recovered contraband falls within the ambit of commercial quantity. A perusal of the custody certificate of the petitioner reveals that he is involved in one more case under the NDPS Act. The apprehension of learned State counsel that if extended benefit of bail, the petitioner may indulge in drug smuggling again cannot be stated to be unfounded keeping in view his criminal antecedents. Hence, the rigors of Section 37 of the NDPS Act would certainly be attracted in this case. There are serious and specific allegations against the petitioner. There is nothing on record to suggest that there would be any undue delay in conclusion of trial. The arguments raised by learned counsel for the petitioner with regard to flaws in investigation cannot be looked into at this stage as the same is to be decided by the trial Court after appreciating the entire evidence and material placed on record before it. Therefore, keeping in view the gravity of allegations as levelled against the petitioner, the quantity of alleged contraband recovered from the petitioner, the quantum of sentence which the conviction may entail and the attendant facts and circumstances of the case, this Court is of the considered opinion that he does not deserve to be granted concession of regular bail, at this stage.

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Accordingly, the present petition is dismissed.

7. It is made clear that any observation made herein above is only for the purpose of deciding the present petition and the same shall have no bearing on the merits of the case.

30.08.2024
Waseem Ansari

(MANISHA BATRA)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned

Yes/No

Whether reportable

Yes/No