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

CRM-M-57632-2024**Date of Decision: 16.01.2025**

Binder Kumar

...Petitioner

vs.

State of Punjab

...Respondent

Coram : Hon'ble Mr. Justice N.S.Shekhawat

Present : Mr. Gurmej Singh Bhinder, Advocate for
Mr. S.K.Choudhary, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Deepinder Singh Brar, Senior DAG, Punjab.

N.S.Shekhawat J. (Oral)

1. The petitioner has filed the present petition under Section 483 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 with a prayer to grant regular bail to him in case FIR No.0082 dated 13.11.2022 registered under Sections 15, 25, 27-A, 29-61-85 of NDPS Act, at Police Station Taragarh, Pathankot.
2. As per case of the prosecution, the present petitioner and his co-accused Sukhwinder Singh were found travelling in a truck from which 155 Kgs. of poppy husk came to be recovered.
3. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner was arrested in the present case on 13.11.2022 and has undergone more than 02 years of custody. He further submits that the petitioner has been falsely involved in the present case. The mandatory provisions of Sections 42 and 50 of NDPS Act have not been complied with in their proper perspective. No independent witness has been joined at the time of search and seizure. He



further relied upon the order dated 27.05.2024 passed in CRM-M-59229-2023 (Annexure P-2), wherein, the co-accused Sukhwinder Singh has been granted the concession of bail by this Court. Learned counsel for the petitioner has relied upon the law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of SLP No. 6690 of 2022, titled as **“Dheeraj Kumar Shukla Vs. State of Uttar Pradesh”**, in which the Hon'ble Supreme Court held as follows:-

“2. The allegations are that on a secret information, the police authorities intercepted two vehicles on 23.06.2020 i.e. one 'Gray' coloured 'Honda City' car and the second 'White' coloured 'Swift Dzire' car. On an interrogation at the spot, Praveen Maurya @ Puneet Maurya, Rishab Kumar Maurya and Dheeraj Kumar Shukla were found to be occupants of the 'Honda City' car whereas the petitioner was driving the 'Swift Dzire' car. On taking a search, more than 92 kgs. Ganja was allegedly recovered from 'Honda City' car where as more than 65 kgs. Ganja was recovered from 'Swift Dzire' Car. The accused were arrested at the spot. The petitioner is, thus, in custody since 24.06.2020.

3. It appears that some of the occupants of the 'Honda City' Car including Praveen Maurya @ Puneet Maurya have since been released on regular bail. It is true that the quantity recovered from the petitioner is commercial in nature and the provisions of Section 37 of the Act may ordinarily be attracted. However, in the absence of criminal antecedents and the fact that the petitioner is in custody for the last two and a half years, we are satisfied that the conditions of Section 37 of the Act can be dispensed with at this stage, more so when the trial is yet to commence though the charges have been framed.

4. For the reasons stated above but without expressing any views on the merits of the case, the petitioner is directed to be



released on bail subject to his furnishing bail bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court.”

4. On the other hand, learned State counsel has vehemently opposed the submissions made by learned counsel for the petitioner on the ground that the quantity of contraband recovered from the petitioner is commercial in nature and the rigors of Section 37 of NDPS Act would apply to the facts of the present case. However, learned State counsel admits that there is no other criminal case against the present petitioner.

5. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the record.

6. In the present case, the petitioner was arrested on 13.11.2022 and is in custody for the last about 02 years and 14 days. There is no other criminal case against him. Similarly placed co-accused Sukhwinder Singh has been granted the concession of bail by this Court vide order dated 27.05.2024 (Annexure P-2).

7. Consequently, keeping in view the above stated facts and the law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of **Dheeraj Kumar Shukla's case (Supra)**, the petitioner is ordered to be released on bail subject to his furnishing bail bonds/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court/ **Duty Magistrate/Chief Judicial Magistrate, concerned**, subject to the following conditions:-

(i) The petitioner shall not directly or indirectly make any inducement, threat or promise to any person acquainted with the facts of the case, so as to dissuade him to disclose such facts to the Court or to any other authority.

- (ii) The petitioner shall remain present before the Court on the dates fixed for hearing of the case.
 - (iii) The petitioner shall not absent himself from the Court proceedings except on the prior permission of the Court concerned.
 - (iv) The petitioner shall surrender his passport, if any, (if already not surrendered), and in case he is not holder of the same, he shall swear an affidavit to that effect.
 - (v) The petitioner shall also file his affidavit before the concerned Court, mentioning his ordinary place of residence and number of mobile phone, which shall be used by him during the pendency of the trial. In case of change of place of residence/mobile number, he shall share the details with the concerned Court/learned Trial Court.
 - (vi) In case, the petitioner involves in any other criminal activity, during the pendency of the trial, it shall be viewed seriously and the prosecution shall be at liberty to move a petition for cancellation of bail granted to him.
 - (vii) The concerned Court may insist on two heavy local sureties and may also impose any other condition, in accordance with law, while accepting the bail bonds and surety bonds of the petitioner.
8. Pending application, if any, is also disposed of.

16.01.2025
hemlata

(N.S.SHEKHAWAT)
JUDGE

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