

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

CWP-20889-2024 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 10.03.2026

CORAM:- HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JAGMOHAN BANSAL

Mr. Akshit Pathania, AAG, Haryana.

JAGMOHAN BANSAL, J. (ORAL)

2. The State Government vide notification dated 11.04.2022 introduced Haryana Good Conduct Prisoners (Temporary Release) Act, 2022 (for short '**2022 Act**'). As per said Act, a convict may be released on temporary basis subject to certain conditions. Manjeet son of Dharambir was convicted by learned Additional Sessions Judge, Gurugram vide judgment dated 12.07.2022 in FIR No.418 dated 27.07.2018. He was convicted under Section 302 IPC and sentenced to life imprisonment. He was released on 05.12.2023 for 10 weeks. He was supposed to surrender at Jail Gate on 14.02.2024. He did not surrender within stipulated period and committed suicide on 20.03.2024. The respondent as per Section 10(3) of 2022 Act vide order dated 28.03.2024 forfeited amount of surety and ordered to collect the said amount by seizing property of the surety.

3. Learned counsel representing the petitioners submits that convict committed suicide on 28.03.2024 and he was supposed to surrender on 14.02.2024. The petitioners did not get reasonable opportunity to ensure surrender of convict Manjeet Singh. They were not at fault, nevertheless, are ready to pay Rs.10,000/- each towards surety.

4. *Per contra*, learned State counsel submits that as per Section 10(3) of 2022 Act, the petitioners are liable to pay full amount of surety.

5. Heard the arguments and perused the record.

6. From the perusal of record, it is evident that petitioners stood surety for temporary release of convict Manjeet Singh. They furnished surety of Rs.2,00,000/- each. Manjeet Singh was supposed to surrender on 14.02.2024, however, he committed suicide on 20.03.2024. The respondent passed impugned order on 28.03.2024. The petitioners do not seem to be at fault especially when convict had committed suicide. Their prayer that they are ready to pay Rs.10,000/- each towards amount of surety seems to be just and fair.

7. Accordingly, the impugned order is hereby modified to the extent that petitioners shall deposit Rs.10,000/- each within three weeks from today. If they fail to deposit aforesaid amount within aforesaid period, the impugned order shall stand revived.

8. ***Allowed*** in above terms.

9. Pending application(s), if any, shall also stand disposed of.

(JAGMOHAN BANSAL)
JUDGE

10.03.2026
Prince Chawla

Whether Speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
Whether Reportable	Yes/No