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

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**CRM-M-36737-2025(O&M)  
Date of decision : 11.09.2025**

**Jaswant Kaur @ Meena****...Petitioner**

**Versus**

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

Present:- Mr. Damanjit Singh Sandhu, Advocate  
for the petitioner.

Mr. Roshandeep Singh, AAG, Punjab.

**MANISHA BATRA, J.(Oral)**

1. Prayer in this petition, filed under Section 483 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, is for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in FIR No. 82 dated 15.09.2023, registered under Section 22 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (*for short 'NDPS Act'*) at Police Station Mehtiana, District Hoshiarpur.

2. Brief facts of the case relevant for the disposal of the present petition are that on 15.09.2023, the petitioner along with co-accused Bimla @ Bimbo and Gurmit Kaur @ Meeto was apprehended by a police party. Their search was conducted. Recovery of 115 grams of intoxicating powder was effected from co-accused Bimla @ Bimbo, 106 grams of intoxicating powder was recovered from co-accused Gurmit Kaur @ Meeto, whereas 124 grams of intoxicating powder was recovered from the present petitioner. As per FSL report, the recovered intoxicating powder was found to be containing *Alprazolam*. During the course of trial, the petitioner was granted

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concession of bail on 24.11.2023 but she absented herself on 06.07.2024 before the learned trial Court, due to which, her bail was cancelled on that date. Proclamation proceedings were initiated against her and she was declared a proclaimed offender on 13.12.2024. Thereafter, the petitioner herself had surrendered before the learned trial Court on 21.01.2025 and since then she is in custody.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner has argued that the petitioner has been falsely implicated in this case. She was granted concession of regular bail and was regularly attending the proceedings before the learned trial Court but on 06.07.2024, due to some unavoidable circumstances, she could not appear before the learned trial Court, resulting into cancellation of her bail and then into her declaration as proclaimed offender. She has herself surrendered on 21.01.2025 before the learned trial Court. Learned counsel for the petitioner has further submitted that the absence of the petitioner before the trial Court on the said date and thereafter on subsequent dates was neither intentional nor deliberate. She is ready to abide by the terms and conditions to be imposed by this Court. She undertakes to attend the Court proceedings, as and when she is required to do so. It is, therefore, urged that the petition deserves to be allowed and the petitioner deserves to be granted concession of regular bail.

4. Status report as well as the custody certificate of the petitioner have been filed by the respondent-State. Learned State counsel has argued that keeping in view the gravity of the allegations levelled against the petitioner as well as her conduct, she is not entitled to get benefit of bail. Therefore, it is urged that the petition is liable to be dismissed.

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5. I have heard learned counsel for the parties at considerable length and have also gone through the material placed on record very carefully.

6. Admittedly, the petitioner was granted concession of regular bail during the course of trial. She was appearing before the Court but absented herself on 06.07.2024, consequent to which, her bail had been cancelled and she was declared a proclaimed offender. She had surrendered back on 21.01.2025 and since then, she is in custody as his application for grant of regular bail had been dismissed by the learned trial Court. The absence of the petitioner on the aforesaid date is obviously due to her carelessness but it does not attract the consequence of keeping her into custody through the entire trial. Conclusion of trial is likely to take time. Keeping in view the aforesaid facts and circumstances, I am of the considered opinion that this petition deserves to be allowed. Accordingly, the present petition is allowed and the petitioner is ordered to be released on regular bail, subject to her furnishing personal/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned.

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.

**11.09.2025**

*Wassem Ansari*

**(MANISHA BATRA)  
JUDGE**

*Whether speaking/reasoned*

*Yes/No*

*Whether reportable*

*Yes/No*