



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA  
AT CHANDIGARH

207

CRM-M No.63681 of 2024

DATE OF DECISION :14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2025

Sagar Soni @ Sagar Verma

.... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

.... Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANJARI NEHRU KAUL

\* \* \* \*

Present : Mr. Puneet Pali, Advocate for  
Mr. Karandeep Singh, Advocate for the petitioner.  
Mr. Navdeep Singh, DAG, Punjab.

\* \* \* \*

MANJARI NEHRU KAUL, J. (Oral)

The petitioner is seeking the concession of regular bail by way of present petition under Section 483 Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 in case FIR No.31 dated 14.11.2024 under Sections 7 & 7A of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 as amended by PC (Amendment) Act, 2018, registered at Police Station Vigilance Bureau Range Ferozepur.

2. Learned Counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner has been in custody since 14.11.2024; although the name of the petitioner does figure in the FIR in question, however, the only allegation which stands levelled against him is of being a conduit of the prime accused who are Police officials. Learned counsel has submitted that although it is a case of false implication, however, even assuming for the sake of arguments, though not conceded, it is not the case of the prosecution that the petitioner had in any manner lured the complainant



to give bribe on an assurance that he would manage the Police officials to let him go scot free in a case under the NDPS Act. It has been contended that the petitioner is merely a *Dhaba* owner and would not have had any occasion to demand the alleged bribe. Learned counsel has submitted that since investigation is complete and challan stands presented qua the petitioner, his further incarceration would serve no useful purpose as there can be no apprehension of the petitioner tampering with evidence, which is documentary in nature, qua him.

3. *Per contra*, learned State counsel while opposing the prayer and submissions made by counsel opposite, on instructions from ASI Paramjit Singh has not disputed that the petitioner has been in custody since 14.11.2024 and investigation is complete qua the petitioner, with challan already been presented. It has also not been disputed that there are no allegations in the FIR in question that the petitioner had demanded any bribe from the complainant. However, it has been asserted by the learned State counsel that there was an audio recording between the complainant and all the other co-accused wherein the petitioner was audible and the complainant had been asked by the co-accused to deliver the bribe money to the petitioner.

4. I have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the material placed on record.

5. The petitioner has been in custody since 14.11.2024 and the possibility of the trial concluding in the near future looks remote with the charges not yet framed, coupled with the fact that as many as 18 witnesses have been cited by the prosecution. The petitioner is alleged



to have conspired with the co-accused to collect the alleged bribe money from the complainant, which in turn was to be handed over to the prime accused. The case of the prosecution qua the petitioner essentially rests on documentary evidence, which is already part of the challan.

6. In the facts and circumstances as enumerated hereinabove, this Court deems it fit to extend the concession of bail to the petitioner as no further incarceration of the petitioner is required.

7. Accordingly, the instant petition is allowed and the petitioner be admitted to bail on his furnishing bail/surety bonds to the satisfaction of the Trial Court/Duty Magistrate concerned. However, it is made clear that anything observed hereinabove shall not be construed to be an expression of opinion on the merits of the case.

8. Needless to add, in case the petitioner misuses the concession of bail granted to him, the State would be at liberty to seek cancellation of the same.

14<sup>th</sup> February, 2025  
'raj'

(MANJARI NEHRU KAUL)  
JUDGE

|                                   |            |           |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| <i>Whether speaking/reasoned:</i> | <i>Yes</i> | <i>No</i> |
| <i>Whether Reportable:</i>        | <i>Yes</i> | <i>No</i> |