

been examined during the trial. He submits that these persons are having criminal antecedents and that, both of them are presently in custody.

3. It is true that the trial appears to have been delayed in spite of the directions given by this court to expedite the trial. However, in the present circumstances, where the evidence of a number of witnesses has already been recorded, it is not desirable to reconsider the question of grant of bail. Instead, appropriate direction can be given to the trial Court.

4. The application is rejected.

5. However, the trial Court shall expedite the trial and endeavour to complete it, in any case, within a period of four months from the date of receipt of this order by it. The Court shall require the prosecution to examine witnesses Papa Shaikh and Vinod Jadhav, as early as possible.

6. Liberty to the applicant to apply afresh for bail before the trial Court itself, after the evidence of these witnesses is recorded. In the event of such an application being made, the trial Court shall decide the same on merits, without being influenced by the rejection of the applicant's previous applications for bail by this Court.

(ABHAY M. THIPSAY J.)