

C. R. M. 5679 of 2021 [via video conferencing]

In Re: An application for bail under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure filed on 25.08.2021 in connection with Gazole Police Station Case No. 66 of 2003 dated 11.04.2003 under Sections 363/366/34 of the Indian Penal Code and added Section 372 and 376 of the Indian Penal Code.

And

In Re: **Ataur Rahaman**

... .. Petitioner

Ms. Minoti Gomes
Mr. Kazi M. Rahaman

... .. for the petitioner

Mr. Saswata Gopal Mukherjee, Id. PP
Mr. Partha Pratim Das
Ms. Manasi Roy

... .. for the State

Petitioner renews the prayer for bail.

He submits that he is in custody for about 608 days.

Learned Advocate appearing for the State opposes the prayer for bail and submits that the petitioner had absconded and trial is in progress.

We have considered the material on record. The allegations disclose prima facie involvement of the petitioner in trafficking women for sexual exploitation.

In view of the gravity of the offences, the abscondence of the petitioner and as trial has substantially progressed, we are not inclined in granting bail to the petitioner.

The application for bail is thus **rejected**.

Trial court however, is directed to expedite the trial and conclude the same at an early date preferably within one year from the next date fixed for recording evidence without granting unnecessary adjournment to either of the parties.

(Bivas Pattanayak, J.)

(Joymalya Bagchi, J.)