

RANJIT SINGH

...Petitioner

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB

...Respondent

**CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JASGURPREET SINGH
PURI**

Present: Mr. S.K. Banga, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Randhir Singh Thind, DAG, Punjab.

Through Video Conferencing**JASGURPREET SINGH PURI, J (ORAL)**

The present petition has been filed under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in FIR No. 40, dated 21.04.2019, under Section 15 of NDPS Act, 1985, registered at Police Station Nawanshahr, District SBS Nagar.

Learned counsel for the petitioner has submitted that the petitioner had earlier filed bail application before this Court vide CRM-M-24639-2020, which was dismissed on merits on 01.09.2020. He submitted that it is the successive bail application and may be considered in view of the long custody of the petitioner which is more than two years.

On the other hand, Mr. Randhir Singh Thind, learned DAG, Punjab has submitted that the present successive bail application of the petitioner is not maintainable because mere long custody is not a change

in the circumstance and, therefore, cannot become a ground for entertainment of the second bail application.

I have heard the learned counsel for the parties.

The earlier bail application filed by the petitioner was decided on merits on 01.09.2020. However, it has been pointed out by both the learned counsel for the parties that the petitioner is in custody since April, 2019 which is more than two years and out of 16 cited witnesses, 9 have already been examined.

In view of the above, the present petition is dismissed. However, in view of the fact that the petitioner is in custody for more than two years and most of the prosecution witnesses have already been examined, the trial Court is directed to expedite the trial of the case.

(JASGURPREET SINGH PURI)
JUDGE

September 6, 2021

rakesh

Whether speaking/reasoned
Whether reportable

Yes/No
Yes/No