

235 IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH
(through video conferencing)

CRM-M-32689-2021
Decided on : 23.08.2021

Ranjit Singh

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

..... Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANJARI NEHRU KAUL

Present : Mr. Ravi Malhotra, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. H.S.Multani, AAG, Punjab.

Manjari Nehru Kaul, J.

This is the second petition filed under Section 439 Cr.PC for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.99 dated 02.05.2018 registered under Sections 22/29/61 NDPS Act, 1985 at Police Station Sadar Khanna, District Ludhiana.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that subsequent to the dismissal of the first petition under Section 439 Cr.PC on 29.01.2021 the trial has not proceeded. He submits that three prosecution witnesses remain to be examined. He has thus, prayed that the petitioner be extended the concession of bail as co-accused have since been enlarged on bail.

Per contra, learned State counsel on instructions from SI Vinod Kumar has apprised the Court that evidence of the remaining prosecution could not be recorded on account of the second wave of Covid-19. He further submits that the very fact that the petitioner along with the co-accused were travelling in an ambulance along with a huge contraband made it evidently clear that they indeed were in conscious possession of the

contraband, which was subsequently recovered.

Heard.

Since learned counsel for the petitioner has failed to satisfy this Court qua any substantial change in the circumstances, which would warrant entertaining the instant petition, the present petition stands dismissed. 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.

A prayer has been made by learned counsel for the petitioner that since the petitioner has been in custody since 02.05.2018 and only three prosecution witnesses remain to be examined, the trial Court may be directed to expedite the trial.

Keeping in view the custody period of the petitioner, trial Court is directed to endeavour to conclude the trial as expeditiously as possible preferably on or before 31.12.2021.

(MANJARI NEHRU KAUL)
JUDGE

23.08.2021

sonia

Whether speaking/reasoned:

Yes/No

Whether reportable :

Yes/No