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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

CRM-M-35367-2020 (O&M)

Date of Decision: 19.03.2021

VARINDER KUMAR @ V.K. SINGH

.....Petitioner

V/s.

STATE OF PUNJAB

.....Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MANJARI NEHRU KAUL.

Present: Mr. Piyush Sharma, Advocate,
for the applicant-petitioner.

Mr. Luvinder Sofat, Assistant Advocate General, Punjab.

MANJARI NEHRU KAUL, J. (Oral)

This is the second petition filed under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.200, dated 31.08.2018, registered under Sections 420, 120-B of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 registered at Police Station City Faridkot, District Faridkot, Punjab.

Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the petitioner has been in custody since 21.07.2019 and only charges have been framed till date. Hence, there is no likelihood of the trial concluding in the near future. He further submits that totally bald and frivolous allegations have been levelled against the petitioner and that too without there being any evidence on record to connect him with the alleged crime.

Per contra, while opposing the prayer and submissions of the learned counsel for the petitioner, on instructions from ASI Tej Singh, has apprised this Court that the petitioner lured innocent and uneducated persons who are mostly labourers into investing their hard-earned money

with the petitioner and thereafter he just closed his office and fled away. He further submits that the delay in the trial has been on account of the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

Heard.

On a pointed query put to the learned counsel for the petitioner as to what were the changed circumstances pursuant to the dismissal of the previous petition filed under Section 439 of the Cr.P.C, 1973 on 06.08.2020 by this Court which would warrant acceptance of the instant petition, he has failed to satisfy this Court *qua* the same.

In view of the aforesaid, this petition stands dismissed, however, in view of the fact that the petitioner has been in custody since 21.07.2019, the trial Court concerned shall endeavour to expedite the trial and conclude the same expeditiously preferably within eight months from today.

March 19, 2021

Ess Kay

**[MANJARI NEHRU KAUL]
JUDGE**

Whether speaking / reasoned : *Yes /No*

Whether Reportable : *Yes/No*