

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH**

CRM-M-41858-2020

Date of Decision: 08.02.2021.

JAGDEEP SINGH @ JAGGI

.....Petitioner

V/s.

STATE OF PUNJAB

.....Respondent

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

(Through Video Conferencing)

Present: Mr. Ripudaman Singh Sidhu, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Ms. Monika Jalota, Deputy Advocate General, Punjab.

MANJARI NEHRU KAUL, J. (Oral)

This is the third petition filed under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 for grant of regular bail to the petitioner in case FIR No.80, dated 01.06.2018, registered under Sections 354-D (Section 376-D added lateron) at Police Station Machhiwara, District Khanna.

Learned counsel for the petitioner has submitted that the petitioner has been in custody since 19.06.2018. However, the trial has not yet concluded inasmuch as only 5 out of 19 prosecution witnesses cited have been examined so far.

Per contra, learned State counsel while opposing the submissions and prayer of the learned counsel for the petitioner, on instructions from ASI Harmeet Singh, has submitted that the delay in the conclusion of trial has been on account of outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

She further submits that 5 witnesses stand examined and another three have been given up as being unnecessary. She has also submitted that the prosecutrix has supported the case of the prosecution.

Heard.

No ground is, therefore, made out for granting the concession of regular bail to the petitioner. Resultantly, the present petition is hereby dismissed. However, keeping in view the fact that the petitioner has been in custody since 19.06.2018, learned trial Court concerned is directed to endeavour to expedite the trial and conclude the same positively on or before 31.05.2021.

February 8, 2021

Ess Kay

**[MANJARI NEHRU KAUL]
JUDGE**

<i>Whether speaking / reasoned</i>	:	<i>Yes /No.</i>
<i>Whether Reportable</i>	:	<i>Yes/No</i>