

IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA
CRIMINAL REVISIONAL JURISDICTION
APPELLATE SIDE

The Hon'ble **JUSTICE BIBEK CHAUDHURI**

CRR 2848 of 2022

Ratan Biswas

-Vs-

The State of West Bengal

For the petitioner: Mr. Angshuman Chakraborty, Adv.,
 Mr. Shashanka Shekhar Saha, Adv.

For the State:- Mr. S.G. Mukherjee, Ld. P.P.
 Mrs. Saryati Dutta, Adv

Heard on: 6th September, 2022.

Judgment on: 6th September, 2022.

BIBEK CHAUDHURI, J. : –

1. The petitioner is the accused in N-169 of 2020 arising out of Dedanga Police Station Case No. 406 of 2020 dated 22.08.2020 under Section 20(b) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985 presently pending before the Learned Additional Sessions Judge, 6th Court, Barasat.

2. The petitioner has filed the instant revision praying for expeditious disposal of the NDPS case instituted against him.

3. On perusal of the application under Section 482 of the Cr.P.C and considering the prayer made by the petitioner, this Court is of the view

that the revisional application can be disposed of here and now in presence of the learned Advocate for the state.

4. Mr. S.G. Mukherjee, learned P.P-in-Charge is requested to represent the State of West Bengal in the instant case. Copy of the revisional application is served upon the learned P.P-in-Charge.

5. The legal Remembrancer, Government of West Bengal is requested to regularize the appointment of Mr. S.G. Mukherjee.

6. It is submitted by the learned Advocate for the petitioner that the petitioner was arrested in connection with the aforementioned case on 22.08.2020 and since then he is in custody. After completion of investigation chargesheet was submitted being no. 449/2020 dated 15.11.2020 with a proposal of 7 witnesses all of whom are police personnel. Thereafter supplementary chargesheet was submitted on 28.06.2021 adding 1 more witness. Thereafter on 04.10.2021 charge was framed against the petitioner under Section 20 (b) (ii) (c) of the NDPS Act and date was fixed for evidence on 28.02.2022. An order of this court has already been passed dated 19.08.2021 for expeditious disposal directing the Trial Court to expedite the hearing and dispose within one and half month but on several occasions no witnesses were present. Since then, 2 witnesses have been examined and next date is fixed on 21.09.2022 for evidence.

7. It is unfortunate to note that the learned trial judge examined only one witness per day. It is specifically provided in Section 309 of the Cr.P.C that in a criminal trial the witnesses are to be examined in one schedule and

trial shall be contained from day-to-day until all the witnesses in attendance have been examined. The learned trial judge has failed to follow Section 309 of the Cr.P.C.

8. It is needless to say that in respect of “Case Flow Management”, the High Court has issued a notification bearing No.4860 dated 6th December, 2006 in the said notification NDPS case is listed as Track 1 case and trial court is directed to dispose of NDPS case within nine months from the date of submission of charge-sheet. The learned trial judge failed to take recourse of speedy disposal of the case and thereby violated the High Court notification No.4860 dated 6th December, 2006.

9. In view of such circumstances, the trial court is directed to positively conclude examination of witnesses by March, 2023 and dispose of the case by April, 2023.

10. The instant criminal revision is thus disposed of with the above direction.

11. The learned Advocate for the petitioner is at liberty to communicate this order to the trial court and the trial court is directed to act upon the server copy of the order.

(Bibek Chaudhuri, J.)