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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
BAIL APPLICATION NO.1607 OF 2020**

Raj Shankar Singh	]	..	Applicant
vs.			
State of Maharashtra & Anr.	]	..	Respondents

Ms.Anjali Patil, for Applicant.

Dr.Dhanalakshmi Iyer, for Complainant.

Mr.S.V. Gavand, APP for State.

PSI Pralhad Jamadar, Santacruz Police Station present.

CORAM : BHARATI DANGRE, J

DATE : 2ND AUGUST, 2022.

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1] The learned APP submits that trial in POCSO Special Case No.44 of 2018 which is trying the applicant for offences punishable under Sections 363, 376 of the of the Indian Penal Code, and under Sections 4, 8, 12 of the POCSO Act, is in progress. He submits that the victim girl has been examined and her evidence has concluded on 30.03.2022. He submits that six more witnesses are to be examined.

2] The learned counsel for the Applicant submits that examination-in-chief of the victim commenced in February, 2020, but by the time her cross-examination was over, it was March, 2022. She would further express her anxiety that the trial is dragging its feet since March, 2022

and not a single witness has been examined though it is now August, 2022. It is stated that the applicant is arrested on 29.10.2017.

3] As this case is pending since 2018 and the applicant is in custody since the year 2017, the trial Court is directed to conclude the proceedings within a period of three months from today. In case, if the trial is not concluded within the stipulated period, the applicant is at liberty to renew his request for bail on account of long prosecution.

4] Application is disposed off.

[BHARATI DANGRE, J]