

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA  
AT CHANDIGARH

(201)

CRM-M-27589-2022

Date of Decision : November 10, 2022

Sukhchain Singh @ Bhugi

.. Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab

.. Respondent

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARSIMRAN SINGH SETHI**

Present: Mr. Jashandeep Singh Sandhu, Advocate, for the petitioner.

Mr. Teevar Sharma, Assistant Advocate General, Punjab.

**HARSIMRAN SINGH SETHI J. (ORAL)**

Present petition has been filed under Section 439 Cr.P.C for the grant of regular bail to the petitioner in respect of FIR No.344 dated 30.12.2020 registered under Section 15 (c) and Sections 25, 29, 61 & 85 of the NDPS Act, 1985 at Police Station City Malout, District Sri Muktsar Sahib, Punjab.

Learned counsel for the petitioner argues that the petitioner is behind bars for the last approximately two years whereas, out of the total 29 witnesses cited to be examined, none has been examined despite the fact the charges have been framed in September, 2021. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that though the present petition has been filed for the grant of regular bail but the petitioner will be satisfied at this stage in case, the trial Court is given direction to conclude the trial in a time bound

manner.

Notice of motion.

Mr. Teevar Sharma, Assistant Advocate General, Punjab, who is present in the Court, accepts notice on behalf of the respondent-State.

Learned counsel for the respondent-State raises no objection for issuance of direction to the trial Court to conclude the trial in a time bound manner.

From the facts, which have been recorded hereinbefore, it transpires that despite expiry of more than one and half years, not even a single witness out of 29 witnesses, has been examined. Nothing has come on record as justification for not recording the testimony of even a single witness in a one and half years after framing of the charges. Be that as it may, the trial Court is directed to record the testimony of the cited witnesses expeditiously even if the same has to be done by giving short adjournments and all efforts be made to conclude the trial within a period of eight months from the next date of hearing.

The present petition is disposed of in above terms.

**November 10, 2022**  
*harsha*

**(HARSIMRAN SINGH SETHI)**  
**JUDGE**

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes  
Whether reportable : No