

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

CRM-M No.43434 of 2021

Date of decision: 25th January, 2022

Ashok Batra @ Mano

... Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana

... Respondent

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE FATEH DEEP SINGH

Present: Mr. Jagdish Manchanda, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Gaurav Jindal, Addl. Advocate General, Haryana
for the respondent/State.

FATEH DEEP SINGH, J. (ORAL)

The matter has been taken up through video-conferencing on account of outbreak of pandemic COVID-19.

Petitioner Ashok Batra alias Mano, alleged to be a *tantrik* has come up in this 4th regular bail application under Section 439 Cr.P.C. in case bearing FIR No.0274 dated 10.08.2018 under Sections 376(2)(n), 201/34 IPC pertaining to Police Station Purani Sabji Mandi, Rohtak, the earlier three having been dismissed by this Court vide orders dated 23.05.2019; 26.11.2019 and 26.08.2021.

The allegations have been levelled by a married lady alleging that the petitioner had been enticing her on the fraudulent pretext of being bestowed with spiritual powers and on the pretext of healing her, has been repeatedly raping her against her wishes. The allegations that are

spelled out highlight the sleaze with which the woman was treated and the manner in which lacs of rupees were duped from the family of the lady.

Learned counsel for the petitioner Mr. Jagdish Manchanda, Advocate has placed his submissions primarily on the grounds of the petitioner having undergone more than three years of incarceration and the trial being unnecessarily prolonged.

Learned State counsel Mr. Gaurav Jindal, Addl. Advocate General, Haryana has opposed his plea on the grounds of heinousness of the offence and that principal witnesses are yet to be examined.

In the light of earlier orders of this Court and the fact that there are serious allegations against the petitioner and the trial is underway does not entitle the petitioner to any bail. Accordingly the prayer is declined and the petition stands dismissed. However, keeping in view that the trial is being unnecessarily protracted, necessitates issuance of directions to the trial Court to ensure that the entire trial is disposed off roughly within a period of six months from the date of receipt of a certified copy of this order.

(FATEH DEEP SINGH)
JUDGE

January 25, 2022
rps

Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
Whether reportable	Yes/No