

**C. R. M. (NDPS) 2008 of 2023**

In Re: An application for bail under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure filed on 01.12.2023 in connection with Raghunathganj Police Station Case No.397 of 2021 dated 24.07.2021 under Section 20(b)(ii)(c) of the NDPS Act. (NDPS Case No.152 of 2021)

And

In Re: **Krishna Barman**

... .. Petitioner

Mr. Pronojit Roy

... .. for the petitioner

Mr. Iqbal Kabir

... .. for the State

1. It is submitted on behalf of the petitioner that he is in custody for about two years and six months. It is further submitted there is inordinate delay in trial. Accordingly, he prays for bail.
2. Learned Advocate for the State opposes the prayer for bail and submits four witnesses have been examined.
3. We have considered the materials on record. Though petitioner is in custody for about two years and six months, only four witnesses have been examined till date. Eight more witnesses are yet to be examined. There is little possibility of trial concluding in the near future. Under such circumstances, we are of the opinion petitioner has been able to make out a case of breach of his fundamental right to speedy trial and he is entitled to bail on this score. Bail prayer on the ground of inordinate delay in trial is not fettered by restrictions under Section 37 of the NDPS Act. Reference in this regard may be made to **Rabi Prakash vs. The State of Odisha<sup>1</sup>**.

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<sup>1</sup> 2023 SCC OnLine SC 1109

4. Therefore, the accused/petitioner, namely **Krishna Barman**, be released on bail upon furnishing bond of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten thousand only), with two sureties of like amount each, one of whom must be local, to the satisfaction of the learned Judge, Special Court under the NDPS Act, 5<sup>th</sup> Court, Berhampore, Murshidabad subject to condition that the said petitioner shall appear before the trial court on every date of hearing until further orders and shall not intimidate witnesses or tamper with evidence in any manner whatsoever or commit similar offences in future.
5. In the event he fails to appear before the trial court without any justifiable cause, the trial court shall be at liberty to cancel his bail automatically without reference to this court.
6. The application for bail, thus, stands allowed.

**(Gaurang Kanth, J.)**

**(Joymalya Bagchi, J.)**