

**CIRCUIT BENCH OF CALCUTTA HIGH COURT
AT JALPAIGURI**

14.08.2023
Court No.1
Item. 27
(Suvendu)

CRM(NDPS) 514 OF 2023

In Re: An application for Bail under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 filed in connection with Jaigaon Police Station Case No. 299 of 2022 dated 22.12.2022 under Section 22(c) of the NDPS Act, 1985.

And

In the matter of: Azad Ansari

.Petitioner.

Mr. Jaydeep Kanta Bowmik
Ms. Rikta Sarkar

For the Petitioner.

Mr. Aditi Shankar Chakraborty
Mr. Aniruddha Biswas

For the State.

The petitioner has been in custody for a considerable period of time. The Memorandum of Arrest reflects blank spaces against the signature of the witness. The Supreme Court in *D.K. Basu Vs. State of West Bengal, (1997) 1 SCC 416*, issued certain mandatory guidelines which were to be followed in all cases of arrest or detention as well as preventive measures. Of these directions, the Supreme Court also held that a Police Officer carrying out arrest shall prepare a Memorandum of Arrest at the time of arrest which shall be attested by at least one witness who may either be a member of the family of the arrestee or a responsible person from the locality from where the arrest is made. The decision in *D.K. Basu* was followed by a coordinate Bench in *CRM (NDPS) No. 428 of 2023* which has been placed before us.

Learned counsel appearing for the State opposes the prayer for bail.

Having considered the relevant case including the Memorandum of Arrest and the judgment of the Supreme Court in *D.K. Basu*, we are of the view that the petitioner has been able to rebut the statutory restriction under Section 37 of the NDPS Act, 1985. The petitioner shall hence be released on bail.

The prayer for bail is allowed.

We accordingly direct that the petitioner shall be released on bail upon furnishing a bond of Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees ten thousand only) with two sureties of like amount each, one of who must be local, to the satisfaction of the learned Additional District and Sessions Judge , 1st Special Court (Under NDPS Act), Jalpaiguri. The petitioner shall not induce witnesses or influence them or tamper with the evidence. The petitioner shall also make himself available for the trial as and when the petitioner is required and shall also not leave the jurisdiction of the concerned police station without leave of the concerned authorities.

CRM(NDPS) 514 of 2023 is accordingly allowed and disposed of in terms of the above.

(PRASENJIT BISWAS, J.)

(MOUSHUMI BHATTACHARYA,J.)

