

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

CRM-M No.40153 of 2023 (O&M)

Date of decision : 17.08.2023

Randhir Singh

..... Petitioner

versus

State of Punjab

..... Respondent

CORAM : HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE PANKAJ JAIN

Present :- Ms. Komalpreet, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Tarun Aggarwal, Senior DAG., Punjab.

PANKAJ JAIN, J. (ORAL)

1 Prayer in the present petition filed under Section 482 Cr.P.C. is for directions to the trial court to expedite the trial in FIR No.129 dated 08.12.2017 for the offence punishable under Section 18 of NDPS Act, 1895 titled as 'State Vs. Randhir Singh' pending before the Additional Sessions Judge, Amritsar.

2. As per the facts enumerated in the petition, FIR No.129 came into being on 08.12.2017 whereby the petitioner was booked for offence punishable under Section 18 of NDPS Act, 1895. Report under Section 173 Cr.P.C. was filed before the court on 17.08.2018. Charges were framed on 06.09.2018. Despite nearly five years having passed thereafter trial has proceeded but on snail's pace. Three out of the nine cited witnesses were examined, that too on the background of the fact that majority of the witnesses are official witnesses. Section 36 of the NDPS Act, 1895 indeed recognizes the right of an accused to

speedy trial and in order to achieve the said objective provides for constitution of special courts.

3. Present case is an example that shows that achieving the objective of providing speedy trial to persons facing prosecution for the offence punishable under the NDPS Act still remains a far cry.

4. In view of the above and keeping in view the innocuous prayer made by the petitioner, this Court deems it appropriate to dispose off the present petition in limine with the directions to the concerned Court to conclude the trial preferably within a period of six months.

5. It is made clear that no request for extension of time will be entertained.

6. Disposed off accordingly.

(PANKAJ JAIN)
JUDGE

17.08.2023
archana

Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes
Whether Reportable :	No