

11.01.2024
Sl. No.31
akd
[ALLOWED]

C. R. M. (NDPS) 62 of 2024

In Re: An application for bail under Section 439 of the Code of Criminal Procedure filed on 04.01.2024 in connection with Suti Police Station Case No.199 of 2020 dated 24.05.2020 under Sections 21(c)/29 of the NDPS Act. (NDPS Case No.93 of 2020)

And

In Re: ***Hasan Mahaldar @ Habil Sk.***

... .. Petitioner

Mr. Dipankar Mandal

... .. for the petitioner

Mr. S. S. Imam

Mr. R. Jana

... .. for the State

1. It is submitted on behalf of the petitioner that he is in custody for about three years and eight months. It is further submitted there is inordinate delay in trial. Accordingly, he renews his prayer for bail.
2. Learned Advocate for the State opposes the prayer for bail and submits seven witnesses have been examined.
3. We have considered the materials on record. Though narcotics i.e. 10 ltrs. of *codeine mixture* was recovered from the petitioner, we find petitioner has suffered incarceration for about three years and eight months. Only seven witnesses have been examined till date. Prosecution proposes to examine eighteen witnesses in all. 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***¹.

4. Therefore, the accused/petitioner, namely ***Hasan Mahaldar @ Habil Sk.***, 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-cum-Additional District Judge, 5th 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.)

¹ 2023 SCC OnLine SC 1109