

With the assistance of the learned counsel for the petitioner, we have gone through the record. We affirm the view taken by the High Court and dismiss the special leave petition.

However, considering the fact that the petitioner has completed about 18 months of actual custody and 5 out of 42 witnesses have been examined by the Trial Court, we direct the Trial Court to conclude the proceedings as early as possible and preferably within one year from the receipt of copy of this order.

A copy of this order be sent to the concerned Trial Court immediately for compliance.

Pending applications, if any, also stand disposed of.

(MUKESH NASA)
COURT MASTER

(PRADEEP KUMAR)
BRANCH OFFICER