



NAFR

HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

CRA No. 243 of 2026

Shoukat Kureshi S/o Mohammad Sheikh Aged About 38 Years R/o Islam Nagar,
Supela, Bhilai, Police Station Supela, District Durg (C.G.) ... **Appellant(s)**

versus

Chhattisgarh State Electricity Distribution Company Limited Through - Executive
Engineer (Town Division), Chhattisgarh State Electricity Distribution Company Bhilai
(East), Through - Authorised Officer, Kariyampalli Vargis, Methyu S/o Late Shri K.M.
Vargis, Aged About 54 Years (Assistant Engineer), Chhattisgarh State Electricity
Distribution Company Limited, Town Division, Supela Zone Officer, District Durg
(C.G.) ... **Respondent(s)**

Order Sheet

23.01.2026	Shri Praveen Durandhar, counsel for the appellant. Shri Mayank Chandrakar, counsel for respondent-1/complainant. Admit. Call for the record of the trial Court. Also heard on IA-1 of 2026, application for suspension of sentence and grant of bail. Appellant is aggrieved by the impugned judgment dated 30.12.2025 passed in Special Criminal Case (Electricity) No.93 of 2019 by the Court of learned Special Judge (Electricity Act), Durg,

District-Durg, whereby the appellant has been convicted under Section 138 of the Electricity Act, 2003, and sentenced RI for six months and fine amount of Rs.1,000/- with default stipulation.

Learned counsel for the appellant would submit that total period of sentence awarded to the appellant was six months, during trial he was on bail and even after his conviction and sentence, learned trial court has released the appellant on bail for a limited period. Appeal is of the year 2026, and it may take some more time for its final adjudication, therefore, appellant may be enlarged on bail.

On the other hand, learned State counsel opposes the bail application, and would submit that considering the nature of evidence, appellant is not entitled for bail.

Heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the record of the trial Court.

Considering the submissions made by learned counsel for the parties, allegations made against the appellant, and the evidence available on record, minimum sentence awarded is of six months, appellant is on bail during trial and also he was released on bail for some limited period after trial, that the appeal will take its own time for its final adjudication, I am inclined to allow the application for

suspension of sentence and grant of bail.

Accordingly, IA-1 of 2026 is allowed.

It is directed that the jail sentence imposed upon the appellant shall remain suspended during the pendency of this appeal and he shall be released on bail on his furnishing a personal bond in the sum of Rs.25,000/- with one surety in like sum to the satisfaction of the trial Court for his appearance before the Registry of this Court on **17th March, 2026**. He shall thereafter, appear before the trial Court on a date to be given by the Registry of this Court and shall continue to appear there on all such subsequent dates as are given to him by the said Court, till disposal of this appeal.

List the case for final hearing in due course.

Sd/-
(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)
JUDGE