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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ CRL.A. 445/2018

SUSHMA BAJAJ

..... Appellant

Through

Mr. Siddharth Luthra, Sr. Advocate
with Mr. Siddharth Aggarwal, Ms.
Priya Puri, Mr. Karan, Ms. Jhanvi
Dubey and Mr. Harimohana N. And
Mr. Swatantra, Advs.

versus

CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

..... Respondent

Through

Mr. Ripu Daman Bhardwaj, SPP with
IO Inspector Rohtash

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE A.K. PATHAK

ORDER

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25.04.2018

CRL.A. 445/2018

Admit.

List in due course. Trial court record be requisitioned.

Crl. M.B. No. 646/2018 (suspension of sentence)

Appellant has been convicted under Section 120B IPC read with Sections 419/420/468/471 IPC and under Section 13(2) read with Section 13(1)(d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 & Section 12(1)(b) of the Passports Act, 1967 by the Trial Court. Maximum sentence handed down to



the appellant is four years rigorous imprisonment with fine of ₹1 lac and in case of default of payment of fine to undergo simple imprisonment for a period of three months. Fine is stated to have been deposited.

Appeal has already been admitted. Disposal of the appeal is likely to take time. Chances of appeal being heard in near future are remote.

In Bhagwan Rama Shinde Gosai and Ors. vs. State of Gujarat, 1999

(4) Supreme Court Cases 421, Supreme Court has held thus:-

“When a convicted person is sentenced to fixed period of sentence and when he files appeal under any statutory right, suspension of sentence can be considered by the appellate court liberally unless there are exceptional circumstances. Of course if there is any statutory restriction against suspension of sentence it is a different matter. Similarly, when the sentence is life imprisonment the consideration for suspension of sentence could be of a different approach. But if for any reason the sentence of limited duration cannot be suspended every endeavour should be made to dispose of the appeal on merits more so when motion for expeditious hearing the appeal is made in such cases. Otherwise the very valuable right of appeal would be an exercise in futility by efflux of time. When the



appellate court finds that due to practical reasons such appeals cannot be disposed of expeditiously the appellate court must bestow special concern in the matter suspending the sentence, so as to make the appeal right meaningful and effective. Of course appellate courts can impose similar conditions when bail is granted.”

In Kiran Kumar vs. State of M.P., 2001 (9) Supreme Court Cases 211, sentence of the appellant was suspended keeping in view decision in Bhagwan Rama Shinde Gosai (supra). In Kashmira Singh vs. State of Punjab, AIR 1977 Supreme Court 2147 and Babu Singh and Ors. vs. State of UP, AIR 1978 Supreme Court 527 also sentences were suspended where the fixed term of sentences was involved. A learned Single Judge of this Court, vide order dated 30th August, 2015 passed in Crl. M.B. No. 7515/2015 in Crl. Appeal no. 205/2015 titled Ajit R. Kayal vs. CBI, has observed that when a Court is not in a position to hear the appeal of an accused within a reasonable period of time, it would ordinarily unless there are cogent grounds for acting otherwise, release the accused on bail during the pendency of appeal against his conviction and sentence.

Learned SPP submits appellant has been convicted in two other cases, thus, her sentence cannot be suspended.



Learned Senior Counsel submits that in both the cases, sentence of only one year has been awarded. He further submits that sentence of the appellant has been suspended in the said cases. It is further submitted that appellant was Passport Officer and had issued passport on the basis of documents produced before her. At best, she can said to be negligent in performing her duty.

Appellant is a lady aged 61 years. She is suffering from various ailments like hypertension, diabetes and has stents in her heart. I need not to go into the merits and demerits of the case at this stage.

Keeping in mind the totality of the facts and circumstances of this case, sentence of the appellant is suspended during the pendency of appeal, subject to her furnishing a personal bond in the sum of ₹50,000/- with one surety in the like amount to the satisfaction of the trial court.

Application is disposed of in the above terms.

Dasti.

A.K. PATHAK, J.

APRIL 25, 2018
r.bararia