

ITEM NO.6

COURT NO.13

SECTION II-C

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

PETITION FOR SPECIAL LEAVE TO APPEAL (CRL.) NO. 580/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 15-10-2025 in MCRC No. 8217/2025 passed by the High Court of Chhattisgarh at Bilaspur]

ASHOK KUMAR PRADHAN & ANR.

PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

RESPONDENT(S)

FOR ADMISSION

IA No. 9067/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

Date : 23-03-2026 This matter was called for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AHSANUDDIN AMANULLAH
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE R. MAHADEVAN

For Petitioner(s) :Mr. Padmesh Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Shivam Shukla, Adv.
Mr. Vijant, Adv.
Mr. Aayushmaan Vatsyayana, AOR

For Respondent(s) :Ms. Ankita Sharma, AOR
Mr. Arjun D Singh, Adv.
Ms. Ishika Neogi, Adv.
Mr. Divya Tripathi, Adv.

O R D E R

Heard learned counsel for the parties.

2. In the main petition itself, one of the major arguments raised by learned counsel for the petitioners was that 08 witnesses out of the 12 already examined, have not named the petitioners in the incident.

3. Counter affidavit has been filed on behalf of the State of Chhattisgarh. On a query from learned counsel for the State of Chhattisgarh as to what was the stand taken by the remaining four witnesses, she prays for time.

4. We fail to understand, as to how, counter affidavit is filed in such a casual manner when the basic contention of the petitioners was already there in the main petition, with regard to 08 out of the 12 examined witnesses not supporting the prosecution story as far as the petitioners are concerned, and still neither instructions are sent to the learned counsel for the State of Chhattisgarh by the authorities, nor are there any pleadings with regard to the remaining four witnesses.

5. We find this a gross case of negligence on the part of the State of Chhattisgarh in not fully coming with the

entire facts before the Court. Accordingly, a cost of Rs.25,000/- (Twenty Five Thousand) is imposed on the State of Chhattisgarh for this conduct. The same shall be deposited with the Advocates' Welfare Fund of the Supreme Court Bar Association within one week from today.

6. List on 09.04.2026. By then further detailed affidavit shall be filed, bringing on record the testimonies of the remaining prosecution witnesses.

(POOJA SHARMA)
AR-CUM-PS

(ANJALI PANWAR)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR