



ITEM NO.49

COURT NO.5

SECTION II-C

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.)
No(s).3356/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order
dated 25-03-2025 in CRA No. 1724/2023 passed by
the High Court of Chhatisgarh at Bilaspur]

RAJELAL MERA VI

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

Respondent(s)

Date : 01-04-2026 This petition was called on for
hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M.M. SUNDRESH
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE NONGMEIKAPAM KOTISWAR
SINGH

For Petitioner(s) :Mr. Ranbir Singh Yadav, AOR
Mr. Prateek Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Puran Mal Saini, Adv.
Ms. Anzu K. Varkey, Adv.
Mr. Mohammed Shahrukh, Adv.
Mr. Kakani Sridhar, Adv.
Mr. Siddhant Agar, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :Mr. Vikrant Singh Bais, D.A.G.
Mr. Vinayak Sharma, Standing
Counsel, Adv.
Mr. Ravinder Kumar Yadav, AOR
Mr. Yashvardhan Shah, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the
following
O R D E R

Leave granted.

The appellant was convicted by the Trial Court for the offences punishable under Sections 342 and 363 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and Sections 3 & 4 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 and accordingly sentenced to life. The High Court vide the impugned order has confirmed the conviction and modified the sentence to rigorous imprisonment for 20 years.

Learned counsel appearing for the appellant submits that witnesses have turned hostile and that this factor has not been properly considered by both the Courts.

Learned counsel appearing for the respondent submits that both the Courts have concurrently held against the appellant and that there is no need for interference.

Suffice it is to state that there are arguable issues involved in this appeal. The

appellant has been under incarceration for more than 4 years and 4 months.

Considering the above, we are inclined to suspend the sentence of the appellant and grant bail to him, during the pendency of this appeal.

Accordingly, the sentence imposed upon the appellant stands suspended and he is granted bail during the pendency of this appeal, subject to the terms and conditions that may be imposed by the Trial Court.

(MOHD IBRAHIM)
SENIOR PERSONAL ASSISTANT

(AVGV RAMU)
COURT MASTER (NSH)