

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

SUO MOTO WRIT PETITION(CRIMINAL) No(s). 4/2021

IN RE POLICY STRATEGY FOR GRANT OF BAIL

(IA No. 28005/2024 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 203408/2022 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS
IA No. 63329/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
IA No. 164210/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
IA No. 132106/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
IA No. 203407/2022 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION
IA No. 269110/2024 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT
IA No. 27999/2024 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT)

WITH SLP(Crl) No. 529/2021

(IA No. 125258/2024 - ANTICIPATORY BAIL
IA No. 125257/2024 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION
IA No. 21807/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
IA No. 279441/2024 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT
IA No. 119551/2024 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT
IA No. 173609/2024 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES
IA No. 21806/2024 - PERMISSION TO FILE APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION)

Date : 17-04-2025 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ABHAY S. OKA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE UJJAL BHUYAN

By Courts Motion

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

With the assistance of Ms. Liz Mathew, the learned senior counsel appointed as Amicus Curiae, we have perused the note submitted by her about compliance with the directions regarding premature release. Subsequently, on 18th February, 2025 detailed directions have been issued by this Court on the issue of premature release. Therefore, compliance reported earlier will be considered when we consider compliance with this Court's judgment and order dated 18th February, 2025.

However, a very serious issue concerning the State of West Bengal is brought to our notice. As of 26th November, 2024 as many as 883 life convicts were eligible for consideration for grant of premature release, out of which, cases of 385 were rejected. What is shocking is that the last meeting of the Sentence Review Board was held on 28th November, 2024 and thereafter not a single

meeting has been held. There is a huge backlog of consideration of cases of eligible convicts.

We direct the State of West Bengal to ensure that at least two meetings of the Sentence Review Board are convened within a period of one month from today and all cases which are pending and which have been processed shall be placed before the Sentence Review Board for making appropriate recommendation.

The State of West Bengal must file a compliance affidavit within a period of one month. The State while filing a compliance affidavit will also state whether the recommended cases have been placed before the Government and on the basis of the orders passed by the Government whether the concerned convicts have been released.

As regards the other States, we propose to pass a detailed order while we consider compliance with the judgment and order dated 18th February, 2025.

A supplementary report submitted by Ms. Liz Mathew, the learned senior counsel appointed as amicus curiae concerning the States of Rajasthan and Bihar is placed on record which will be considered when we consider compliance with the order dated 18th February, 2025. List on the date already fixed.

(ANITA MALHOTRA)
AR-CUM-PS

(AVGV RAMU)
COURT MASTER