



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. _____ OF 2024
[arising out of SLP(Crl.) No. 4603 of 2022]

RAM BINOD PRASAD SINHA

APPELLANT(S)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA THROUGH DIRECTOR,
DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT

RESPONDENT(S)

O R D E R

Leave granted.

The appellant - Ram Binod Prasad Sinha has been in custody for more than five years between the period - 2011 and 2018, in the predicate offence. For the offence(s) punishable under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002¹, the appellant - Ram Binod Prasad Sinha has been in custody for over three years and nine months.

Keeping in view the period of custody undergone, we accept the present appeal and direct that the appellant - Ram Binod Prasad Sinha will be released on bail during the pendency of trial in ECIR no. 03/2018 registered for the offence(s) punishable under Section 4 of the PMLA, before the Court of Additional Judicial Commissioner-XVII-cum-Special Judge, CBI, Ranchi. The trial Court will fix terms and conditions for grant of bail.

1 "PMLA", for short

The appellant - Ram Binod Prasad Sinha will appear on all dates of hearing unless granted exemption from personal appearance. The appellant - Ram Binod Prasad Sinha will also provide one mobile number, on which he can be contacted by the officers of the Directorate of Enforcement to ascertain his whereabouts. In case the officers of the Directorate of Enforcement are unable to contact the appellant - Ram Binod Prasad Sinha on the given mobile number, it will be open to them to move an application before the trial Court seeking cancellation of bail.

The impugned judgment is set aside and the appeal is allowed in the aforesaid terms.

We clarify that the observations made in this order and grant of bail will not be treated as findings on the merits of the case.

Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

.....J.
(SANJIV KHANNA)

.....J.
(DIPANKAR DATTA)

.....J.
(AUGUSTINE GEORGE MASIH)

NEW DELHI;
March 15, 2024.

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. 11971/2022

(Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 03-11-2022 in BA No. 8937/2022 passed by the High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi)

POOJA SINGHAL

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 195937/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

WITH

SLP(Crl) No. 4603/2022 (II-A)

Date : 15-03-2024 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJIV KHANNA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DIPANKAR DATTA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AUGUSTINE GEORGE MASIH

For Petitioner(s)

Mr. Sidharth Luthra, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Amar Gahlot, Adv.
Mr. Rajat Mittal, AOR
Mr. Sanyam Aggarwal, Adv.
Ms. Anshi Bhatia, Adv.
Mr. Akshat Kushagra, Adv.
Ms. Srishti Jaura, Adv.
Mr. Suprateek Neogi, Adv.

Mr. Pandey Neeraj Rai, Adv.
Ms. Rachitta Rai, AOR
Mr. Samresh Chandra Jha, Adv.
Mr. Shehan Ashraf, Adv.
Mr. Rishabh Rath, Adv.

For Respondent(s)

Mr. S.V. Raju, A.S.G.
Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, AOR
Mr. Rajat Nair, Adv.
Mr. Rajan Kumar Chourasia, Adv.
Mr. Annam Venkatesh, Adv.
Mrs. Sairica Raju, Adv.
Mr. Ashutosh Gadhe, Adv.
Mr. Zoheb Hossain, Adv.
Ms. Swati Ghildiyal, Adv.
Mr. Arkaj Kumar, Adv.

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

SLP(Crl.) No. 11971/2022

The respondents will file an affidavit with particulars with regard to the actual period of detention suffered by the petitioner - Pooja Singhal. The period during which she was on interim bail or was admitted to a hospital outside the jail, will also be indicated in the said affidavit.

The affidavit alongwith required particulars will be filed within a period of fifteen days from today.

Re-list in the week commencing 29.04.2024.

SLP(Crl.) No. 4603 of 2022

Leave granted.

In terms of the signed order, keeping in view the period of custody undergone, the present appeal is accepted and it is directed that the appellant - Ram Binod Prasad Sinha will be released on bail during the pendency of trial in ECIR no. 03/2018 registered for the offence(s) punishable under Section 4 of the PMLA, before the Court of Additional Judicial Commissioner-XVII-cum-Special Judge, CBI, Ranchi. The trial Court will fix terms and conditions for grant of bail.

The impugned judgment is set aside and the appeal is allowed in terms of the signed order.

Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

(DEEPAK GUGLANI)

AR-cum-PS

(R.S. NARAYANAN)

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

(signed order in Crl.A. @ SLP(Crl.) No. 4603/2022
is placed on the file)