

ITEM NO.7

COURT NO.3

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(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (CrI.) No(s).731/2025

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 20-11-2024 in MCRC No.7472/2024 passed by the High Court of Chhatisgarh at Bilaspur]

RUPENDRA KUMAR CHANDRA

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

Respondent(s)

IA No. 13361/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.

Date : 27-03-2025 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SURYA KANT

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE NONGMEIKAPAM KOTISWAR SINGH

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Padmesh Mishra, Adv.
Ms. Shipra Singh, Adv.
Mr. Shivam Shukla, Adv.
Ms. Vastvikta Bhardwaj, Adv.
Mr. Nikunj Goyal, Adv.
Mr. Vijant, Adv.
Mr. Aditya, Adv.
Mr. Aayushmaan Vatsyayana, AOR

For Respondent(s) Ms. Ankita Sharma, AOR
Mr. Arjun D. Singh, Adv.

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

1. The petitioner seeks his enlargement on regular bail in FIR No.45/2024, registered under Section 20(b) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (for short, 'NDPS Act') registered at Police Station Dongripali, District Sarangarh-Bilaigarh, Chhattisgarh.

2. The allegations are that on the basis of a secret information, the police patrolling party intercepted a car, in which the petitioner was travelling, and on search, 21 kg of marijuana was found in the trunk of his car, lying in two bags

marked `A-1' and `A-2'. The petitioner was arrested at the spot on 16.08.2024 and is in custody since then.

3. There was some confusion with regard to the FSL reports (A-2 and A-3), which, in fact, pertained to the samples taken in FIR No. 48/2024 and not in respect of FIR No. 45/2024, registered against the petitioner. That mistake has subsequently been rectified by the Special Judge and the trial is now fixed for evidence of the prosecution.

4. It seems to us that the appropriate stage for the petitioner to seek regular bail would be after the evidence of some of the vital witnesses are recorded.

5. Consequently, we dispose of the instant Special Leave Petition, at this stage, with liberty to the petitioner to move a fresh application for bail after the statements of some of the crucial witnesses stand recorded by the Trial Court. The said application, to be moved by the petitioner, shall be considered as per its own merit without being influenced by the observations made in the orders dated 30.09.2024 and 20.11.2024, passed by the Special Judge, NDPS and the High Court, respectively, while rejecting the petitioner's bail.

6. The Trial Court shall make an endeavour to record the statements of crucial witnesses within a period of three months. The prosecution is directed to extend full cooperation to the Trial Court in this regard.

7. As a sequel to the above, the pending interlocutory application also stands disposed of.

(SATISH KUMAR YADAV)
ADDITIONAL REGISTRAR

(PREETHI T.C.)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR