IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NOS.3618 - 3619/2025
[@ SLP [CRL.] NOS.2471-2472/2025]

PARTHA CHATTERJEE Appellant(s)

VERSUS

CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION Respondent(s)

WITH
CRIMINAL APPEAL NOS. 3620 - 3621 /2025
SLP(Crl) Nos.2596-2597/2025 (II-B)

CRIMINAL APPEAL NOS.3622 - 3624/2025
SLP(Crl) Nos.4391-4393/2025

O R D E R

Leave granted.

The appellants have been arrayed as accused for the offences punishable under Sections 120B, 201, 420, 467, 468, 471 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (for short, 'the IPC') and Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (for short, 'the PC Act').

We have been informed that the sanction has been obtained only qua the appellant in

SLP (Crl.) Nos. 2471-2472/2025 and is still awaited qua the other appellants.

Learned senior counsel appearing for the appellants would submit that the appellants have been under incarceration for almost three years.

The learned ASG appearing for the respondent vehemently opposed the prayer for bail by submitting that the allegations made are serious in nature and there is a likelihood of the witnesses being influenced. The sanction is not forthcoming qua the other two appellants, in view of the lack of cooperation on the part of the State Government, who is not a party before us. In any case, in the event of this Court considering the bail application(s) of the appellants, similar orders can be passed on the same line as the judgment of this Court passed in Criminal Appeal No.5266/2024 dated

**13.12.2024, wherein the following directions were issued:**

> **"18. Striking a balance between these considerations and without expressing any opinion on the merits of the allegations, we deem it appropriate to dispose of this appeal with the following directions:**
>
> **"a. Since the charge sheet in the ED Case (ECIR No. KLZO-11/19/2022) has already been filed but charges are yet to be framed, we direct the Trial Court to decide on framing of charges before the commencement of the winter vacations and/or before 31.12.2024, whichever is earlier;**
>
> **b. The Trial Court shall thereafter fix a date within the second and third week of January 2025 for recording the statements of such prosecution witnesses who are the most material or vulnerable. All such witnesses, especially those who have expressed apprehension of danger to their lives (who might be two or three), will be examined on these dates;**

**c. The Appellant and his counsel are directed to extend full cooperation to the Trial Court for the recording of statements of these witnesses;**

**d. The witnesses will be examined without prejudice to the Appellant's right to challenge the decision on framing of charges if the decision is adverse and if he is so aggrieved. However, upon such challenge, no stay on trial shall be granted;**

**e. In the event the examination of these witnesses is not completed on the dates fixed due to unforeseen circumstances, the Trial Court may do so lastly in the third and fourth week of January, 2025;**

**f. The Petitioner shall thereafter be released on bail on 01.02.2025, subject to his furnishing bail bonds to the satisfaction of the Trial Court;**

**g. In the event that the Trial Court is able to complete the directions put forth in (b) and (e) at an earlier date, then the Appellant may be released on bail**

**immediately thereafter and prior to the given date of 01.02.2025;**

**h. Any attempt made by the Appellant to influence or threaten the witnesses, directly or indirectly, shall entail cancellation of the relief of bail;**

**i. The Appellant shall appear before the Trial Court on every date of hearing, and no unnecessary adjournment shall be sought on his behalf. If the Appellant is found involved in prolonging the trial, it shall be taken as a valid ground for cancellation of bail; and**

**j. The Appellant shall not be appointed to any public office (except that he shall continue to be a Member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly) during the pendency of trial."**

**Admittedly, the appellants have been under incarceration for nearly three years and continuing their incarceration would amount to a travesty of justice. The**

investigation is complete and the charge sheet has already been filed by the respondent.

Considering the above, we are inclined to set aside the impugned order(s) and grant bail to the appellants, subject to the following conditions:

(i) Before the execution of the bail bonds, the charges will have to be framed by the Trial Court with respect to the appellant against whom the sanction has already been granted for the offences under both, the IPC and the PC Act and for the others, under the IPC alone. The needful will have to be done within a period of four weeks from today.

(ii) Thereafter, the material witnesses will have to be examined within a further period of two months. After the completion of the same, the Trial Court shall release the appellants on bail.

We make it clear that we have not expressed anything on the lack of sanction.

In such view of the matter, we are not going into that part of the order of the High Court which has made certain observations on the question of sanction.

Accordingly, the appeals stand allowed in the aforesaid terms.

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

.....J.
[M.M. SUNDRESH]

.....J.
[NONGMEIKAPAM KOTISWAR SINGH]

NEW DELHI;
AUGUST 18, 2025.

**ITEM NO.2 COURT NO.6 SECTION II-B**

**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). 2471-2472/2025**

**[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 20-11-2024 in CRM(DB) No. 583/2024 24-12-2024 in CRM(DB) No. 583/2024 passed by the High Court at Calcutta]**

**PARTHA CHATTERJEE Petitioner(s)**

**VERSUS**

**CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION Respondent(s)**
**FOR ADMISSION**

**WITH**
**SLP(Crl) No. 2596-2597/2025 (II-B)**
**FOR PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES ON IA 82509/2025**
**IA No. 82509/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES**

**SLP(Crl) No. 4391-4393/2025 (II-B)**

**Date : 18-08-2025 These petitions were called on for hearing today.**

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

**For Petitioner(s) Mr. Amit Sharma, AOR**
**Mr. Dipesh Sinha, Adv.**
**Ms. Pallavi Barua, Adv.**
**Ms. Aparna Singh, Adv.**

Mr. Kumar Anand, Adv.

Mr. Siddharth Mridul, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Pramod Kumar Dubey, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Rupraj Banerjee, Adv.
Mr. Supantha Sinha, Adv.
Mr. Ramachandruni BSiddhartha, Adv.
Ms. Prachi Dubey, Adv.
Mr. Vivek Jain, Adv.
M/S. J & D Law Offices, AOR

Mr. M S Khan, Adv.
Mr. Balwant Singh Billowira, Adv.
Mr. Prashant Prakash, Adv.
Ms. Qausar Khan, Adv.
Mr. Rahul Sahani, Adv.
Ms. Arpita Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Zahbi Tihami, Adv.
Ms. Shilpa Singh, AOR

For Respondent(s) Mr. Suryaprakash V Raju, A.S.G.
Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, AOR
Mr. Annam Venkatesh, Adv.
Mr. Hitarth Raja, Adv.
Mr. Vivek Gurnani, Adv.
Mr. Arkaj Kumar, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

Leave granted.

The appellants are granted bail on terms and conditions to the satisfaction of the Trial Court.

**The appeals are allowed in terms of the signed order.**

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

**(ASHA SUNDRIYAL)** **(POONAM VAID)**
**DEPUTY REGISTRAR** **ASSISTANT REGISTRAR**

**[Signed order is placed on the file]**