ITEM NO.16 COURT NO.5 SECTION II-A

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

Petition for Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.) No.13759/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 28-10-2024 in CRADB No. 425/2002 passed by the High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi]

SIMON SOREN Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF JHARKHAND & ANR. Respondent(s)

IA No. 186246/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
IA No. 83959/2026 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.
IA No. 186245/2026 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES

Date : 19-11-2026 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE J.B. PARDIWALA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE K. VINOD CHANDRAN

For Petitioner(s) :Ms. Fauzia Shakil, AOR
Ms. Nazmeen Ahmed, Adv.
Mr. Khalid Ali, Adv.

For Respondent(s) :Ms. Pallavi Langar- 1814, AOR
Mr. Sujeet Kumar Chaubey, Adv.
Ms. Anushka Raghunath, Adv.

Ms. Narain Rashika Ashok- 4322, AOR

Signature Not Verified
Digitally signed by CHANDRESH
Date: 2026.11.20 17:28:05 IST
Reason:

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

Leave granted.

2. **Forty-four years have elapsed from the crime committed on 18.10.1981 for the appeal to be taken up before this Court. We had noticed with anguish that the trial prolonged for twenty-two years and the appeal before the High Court also was pending for another twenty-two years. Of the six accused arrayed, two died before the framing of the charges and out of the four convicted, three died while the appeal was pending before the High Court. The appellant is the only accused surviving who is 70 years of age and troubled with multiple ailments. We suspended the sentence and released him on bail by order dated 19.08.2026 despite he having spent only two years four months and twelve days in custody, especially considering the ordeal of prosecution for forty-five long years. The records were also called for.**

3. **Today when the matter was called, we were informed by the learned Counsel for the appellant that in Writ Petition (Criminal) No.162 of 2025 filed by the National**

Legal Services Authority, there was a direction to all the States and Union Territories to formulate and notify a comprehensive policy for early or premature release of prisoners who are of advanced age and/or are terminally ill; providing a clear and unified definition of terminal illness.

4. **Learned Counsel for the appellant prays that the matter may be deferred for three months awaiting the formulation and notification of such a policy by the State of Jharkhand.**

5. **In the meanwhile, we also direct the appellant to present himself before the District Government Hospital, Dumka, Jharkhand, to facilitate his medical examination. The Chief Medical Officer of the District Government Hospital, Dumka, Jharkhand shall constitute a medical team to examine the appellant and file a report. A copy of this order shall be sent to the Member Secretary, Jharkhand State Legal Services Authority, who shall intimate the same to the Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Dumka, Jharkhand. The Superintendent of Police, Dumka, on the request made by the DLSA, Dumka, shall**

ensure that the appellant is facilitated the medical examination, through the Station House Officer of the Police Station in which jurisdiction the appellant resides. The report of medical examination shall be filed on the next date.

6. **The appellant, as noticed above, has already been released on bail and shall continue as such.**

7. **Post the matter on 03.03.2026.**

(CHANDRESH)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(POOJA SHARMA)
COURT MASTER (NSH)