



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. _____ OF 2025
(ARISING OUT OF SLP (CRIMINAL) NO. 5940 OF 2025)

PANDE RATNESHWARI PRASAD

APPELLANT(S)

VERSUS

THE UNION OF INDIA

RESPONDENT(S)

W I T H

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. _____ OF 2025
(ARISING OUT OF SLP (CRIMINAL) NO. _____ OF 2025)
DIARY NO. 23584 OF 2025

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. _____ OF 2025
(ARISING OUT OF SLP (CRIMINAL) NO. 8282 OF 2025)

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. _____ OF 2025
(ARISING OUT OF SLP (CRIMINAL) NO. 7577 OF 2025)

A N D

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. _____ OF 2025
(ARISING OUT OF SLP (CRIMINAL) NO. 8281 OF 2025)

O R D E R

1. Delay condoned. Leave granted.
2. The appellant is an advocate, who is aggrieved by the order dated 02.02.2024 passed by the High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi whereby his petition for quashing of the order dated 17.05.2016, taking cognizance of proceedings arising out of RC.12(S)/2014-EOW-R [Cr.M.P. No. 763 of 2018]; RC.10(S)/2014-EOW-R [Cr.M.P. No. 572 of 2018]; RC.08(S)/2014-EOW-R [Cr.M.P. No. 755 of 2018]; RC.09(S)/2014-EOW-R [Cr.M.P. No. 764 of 2018] and; RC.11(S)/2014-EOW-R [Cr.M.P. No. 768 of 2018], has been dismissed. The appellant filed 5 petitions before the High

Court in relation to five different FIRs and the proceedings arising therefrom. The High Court, while dismissing the petitions vide common judgment, observed as follows:

"65. In the instant case there is specific accusation against petitioner is that being a panel lawyer of the creditor Bank he furnished wrong "Title Investigation Report" (TIR) in respect of properties registered vide sale deed no. 12409 dated 20.11.2008; sale deed nos. 6745, 6774 and 6775 dated 26.06.2009; sale deed no. 4221 dated 07.05.2009; sale deed no. 2327 dated 09.03.2009 and sale deed no. 2194 dated 04.03.2009 and; vide sale deed no. 12881 dated 06.12.2008, respectively in favour of the borrower/accused by declaring the aforesaid sale deeds are fit for equitable mortgage and the said sale deed was mortgaged by the borrower for getting loan and enhancement in credit facilities.

66. During investigation it has been disclosed that some of the properties registered by aforesaid sale deeds were Government lands and some of the properties were privately owned land and title of the same were not in favour of the borrower and the supporting documents were also found as fake and forged. Basis upon the aforesaid facts it is alleged that the present petitioner furnished false information and submit wrong undertaking that he had inspected the records of Circle Office and Sub-Registrar Office for verification of genuineness of the title of the said properties, as such, the probable connivance or conspiracy of the petitioner with other accused cannot be lightly brushed out.

67. Thus, taking in to consideration of aforesaid settled connotation of law this court at this stage cannot go in to probative value of the alleged offence and also cannot stifle the prosecution case. Further at this stage it cannot be decided that Whether such TIR was issued by default or design a question of fact and same can be determined only at appropriate stage after the evidence is led on behalf of the prosecution and the petitioner has an opportunity to rebut the same."

3. We have heard Mr. Gaurav Agarwal, learned senior counsel appearing on behalf of the appellant and Mr. Satya Darshi Sanjay, learned Additional Solicitor General of India on behalf of the respondent-Union of India/CBI.

4. While we do not find it fit to quash the proceedings at this stage, we modify the impugned order of the High Court with the following directions:

(i) The appellant is admitted to bail during the pendency of the trial. He will furnish bail bond/s to the satisfaction of the trial court on the date fixed, in all the cases.

(ii) The appellant shall be at liberty to raise the question as to whether it would be a case of professional negligence and/or criminal conspiracy, before the trial court at an appropriate stage. Such a plea shall be considered by the Court in accordance with law.

5. With the above, the appeals stand disposed of.

.....J.
(SURYA KANT)

.....J.
(JOYMALYA BAGCHI)

NEW DELHI;
SEPTEMBER 15, 2025.

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(s). 5940/2025

[Arising out of impugned judgment and order dated 02-02-2024 in CRMP No. 763/2018 passed by the High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi]

PANDE RATNESHWARI PRASAD

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

THE UNION OF INDIA

Respondent(s)

WITH

Diary No(s). 23584/2025 (II-A)

(IA No. 132571/2025 - CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING

IA No. 132573/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT)

SLP(Crl) No. 8282/2025 (II-A)

SLP(Crl) No. 7577/2025 (II-A)

SLP(Crl) No. 8281/2025 (II-A)

Date : 15-09-2025 These petitions were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SURYA KANT
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

For Petitioner(s) : Mr. Gaurav Agarwal, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Pandey Neeraj Rai, Adv.
Ms. Rachitta Rai, AOR
Mr. Samresh Chandra Jha, Adv.

For Respondent(s) : Mr. Satya Darshi Sanjay, A.S.G.
Mr. Prithvi Ahuja, Adv.
Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, AOR
Mr. Mukul Singh, Adv.
Mr. Khushal Kolwar, Adv.
Ms. Akanksha Raj, Adv.
Mr. Jagdish Chandra, Adv.
Mr. Shubham Prakash Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Ishaan Sharma, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

1. Delay condoned.
2. Leave granted.
3. The appeals stand disposed of in terms of the signed order.
4. The operative part of the order reads as under:

"4.While we do not find it fit to quash the proceedings at this stage, we modify the impugned order of the High Court with the following directions:

(i) The appellant is admitted to bail during the pendency of the trial. He will furnish bail bond/s to the satisfaction of the trial court on the date fixed, in all the cases.

(ii) The appellant shall be at liberty to raise the question as to whether it would be a case of professional negligence and/or criminal conspiracy, before the trial court at an appropriate stage. Such a plea shall be considered by the Court in accordance with law."

5. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand closed.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI T.C.)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

(Signed order is placed on the file)