

ITEM NO.5

COURT NO.3

SECTION X

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

Writ Petition(s)(Criminal) No(s).169/2025

PILA PAHAN @ PEELA PAHAN & ORS.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF JHARKHAND & ANR.

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 100925/2025 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., IA No.100929/2025 - GRANT OF BAIL, IA No. 100928/2025 - GRANT OF BAIL, IA No.100927/2025 - GRANT OF BAIL, IA No. 100926/2025 - GRANT OF BAIL)

Date : 13-05-2025 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) :Ms. Fauzia Shakil, AOR
Ms. Tasmiya Taleha, Adv.

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

Mr. Ambhoj Kumar Sinha, AOR

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

1. We are informed by learned counsel for the petitioners as well as learned State counsel that during the pendency of these proceedings, the judgments in all the four Criminal Appeals have been pronounced. While in three cases of Pila Pahan @ Peela Pahan, Satyanarayan Sahu and Soma Bading the appeals have been allowed and the appellants have been acquitted, in the fourth case of Dharmeshwar Oroan due to a difference of opinion among the Hon'ble Judges of the Division Bench the matter has been put before the Chief Justice for further reference to a third Judge. In any event, in that appeal also the High Court has ordered the release of the petitioner on bail forthwith.

2. Consequently, all the four petitioners have been released from custody as of 13.05.2025.

3. While we are relieved that the petitioners before us have finally attained some semblance of justice, we are nonetheless seized of the pressing issues raised in this matter, which was also noted in our order dated 05.05.2025. Needless to say, the expeditious appraisal of criminal appeals, and the swift disbursement of justice therein is a cause that assumes paramount importance and indeed goes to the root of the criminal justice system in our country.

4. Notably, in a subsequent case pertaining to the High Court of Allahabad, *vide* order dated 09.05.2025 passed in W.P.(C) No.490/2025, we have already sought information regarding the date of pronouncement of judgments and the date when the same were uploaded on the High Court website.

5. It seems to us that the issues noticed in the above-mentioned matters would require a deeper analysis by this Court and perhaps invite the laying down of certain mandatory guidelines. We say so being fully cognizant of the fact that the judiciary's efficient functioning is a necessary pre-requisite to maintain the trust and faith of the consumers of justice in the justice delivery system. Of course, the time-line(s) prescribed earlier by this Court for the pronouncement of judgments will also have to be strictly adhered to by the High Courts, along with the mechanism which we propose to evolve.

4. Consequently, post the main case on the date fixed, i.e., 21.07.2025. Meanwhile, the information to be received from the

Registrar General of the High Courts shall be collated by the Registry and tagged with the paperbooks for our further consideration.

(ARJUN BISHT)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(PREETHI T.C.)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR