

2025 LiveLaw (SC) 656

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

J.K. MAHESHWARI; J., ARAVIND KUMAR; J.

Miscellaneous Application No. 919/2025 in SLP(Crl) No. 3607/2023

DURGAWATI @ PRIYA *versus* CBI

Practice and Procedure - The Supreme Court deprecated the practice of trial court judges directly communicating with its Registry to seek extensions in cases with directions for expeditious trials. The Court held such communication improper and mandated that extension requests be supervised by the High Court Registry, routed through the Registrar General or Registrar (Judicial), and forwarded to the Supreme Court. The Court noted the Madhya Pradesh High Court's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) prohibiting direct communication and prescribing procedures for extension requests in time-bound trials. To ensure uniformity, the Supreme Court directed all High Courts to formulate similar SOPs and submit compliance reports within one month. (Paras 1–4)

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 20-07-2023 in SLP(Crl) No. 3607/2023 passed by the Supreme Court of India]

By Courts Motion; For Petitioner(s): Mr. Ansar Ahmad Chaudhary, AOR

For Respondent(s): Ms. Poornima Singh, Adv., Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, AOR

ORDER

- 1) It has been our persistent experience that in cases where this Court has issued directions for the expeditious conclusions of trials, the concerned judges have been corresponding with the Registry of this Court and subsequently, those letters are placed before the Court for orders. We deem such practice to be wholly unacceptable.
- 2) In cases, where a direction to conclude the trial, suit or appeal is issued by this Court, it is the duty of the Registry of the High Court concerned to supervise the progress of such cases. If an extension is required, it may be granted with the satisfaction of the immediate supervisory officer and the correspondence in this regard shall be forwarded to this Court by either Registrar General or Registrar Judicial proposing the same.
- 3) Recently in the case of Ramkishore @ Kallu V. State of Madhya Pradesh @ Anr. [Miscellaneous Application No. 736 of 2025 in SLP (Crl.) No. 11817 of 2023] listed before this Court seeking extension of time, the aforesaid fact was brought to our notice. Pursuant thereto, after issuing a direction, the Registrar General of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh framed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), which, upon receiving approval from the Administrative Committee-I of the High Court was placed on record.
- 4) To carve out the said practice in other High Courts, it is essential to communicate this Order to the Registrar Generals of the respective High Courts so that they may place the matter before the Hon'ble the Chief Justice for preparation of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) outlining the manner in which cases wherein directions have been issued to expedite the hearing or conclusion of trial, suit or appeal shall be corresponded with the registry of this Court.
- 5) Registry to send this order to all the Registrar Generals of the High Courts, thereby to take corrective measures and to submit their report. 6) List the matter after one month.