

2025 LiveLaw (SC) 989

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
SANJAY KUMAR; J., ALOK ARADHE; J.
SLP(Crl.) No. 10915/2025; OCTOBER 08, 2025
JUVENILE X *versus* STATE OF U.P.

Criminal Law – Bail - Juvenile Justice - Sexual Offences - Sex Education - Supreme Court reiterated its direction to the State of Uttar Pradesh to file an additional affidavit informing the Court on how sex education is provided as a part of the curriculum in higher secondary schools (Classes IX to XII) so that young adolescents are made aware of the hormonal changes that come with puberty and the consequences that may flow therefrom — Pursuant to the direction, an additional affidavit was filed detailing the curriculum provided by the Secondary Education Department, Uttar Pradesh, for classes IX to XII, which was stated to be in keeping with the directives of the National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT)— Need for earlier implementation — Supreme Court opined that sex education should be provided to the children from a younger age and not class IX onwards — It is for the authorities concerned to apply their mind and take corrective measures, so that children are informed of the changes that happen after puberty and the care and cautions to be taken in relation thereto — That aspect was left open for the authorities concerned to take necessary steps. [Para 7-10]

For Petitioner(s): Mr. V.N. Raghupathy, AOR

For Respondent(s): Mr. Abhishek Saket, Adv. Ms. Manisha, Adv. Mr. Sudeep Kumar, AOR Ms. Rupali, Adv. Mr. Ghanshyam Singh, Adv.

ORDER

Leave granted.

The appellant is a juvenile, who is alleged to have committed offences under Sections 376 and 506 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, read with Section 6 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012. He was denied bail by the High Court, *vide* the impugned order dated 28.08.2024, constraining him to approach this Court.

By order dated 10.09.2025, this Court directed release of the appellant on terms and conditions to be fixed by the Juvenile Justice Board concerned, considering the fact that he was himself a fifteen-year-old boy. This Court also reiterated its direction to the State of Uttar Pradesh, in the order dated 12.08.2025, to file an additional affidavit informing the Court as to how sex education is provided as a part of the curriculum in higher secondary schools within the State of Uttar Pradesh, so that young adolescents are made aware of the hormonal changes that come with puberty and the consequences that may flow therefrom.

Pursuant to the aforesaid direction, additional affidavit dated 06.10.2025 was filed by the Circle Officer, District Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh, detailing the curriculum provided by the Secondary Education Department, Uttar Pradesh, for classes IX to XII. We are informed that this curriculum is in keeping with the directives of the National Council of Educational Research & Training.

However, we are of the opinion that sex education should be provided to the children from a younger age and not class IX onwards. It is for the authorities concerned to apply

their mind and take corrective measures, so that children are informed of the changes that happen after puberty and the care and cautions to be taken in relation thereto.

Leaving that aspect open for the authorities concerned to take necessary steps, the appeal is allowed, setting aside the impugned order passed by the High Court. The order dated 10.09.2025 granting bail to the appellant is made absolute and shall continue to operate till the disposal of the criminal case/trial.

We clarify that we have not made any observations/comments on the merits of the case and any observation made in this order is meant only for the limited purpose of grant of bail.

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

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