



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL APPEAL NO. _____/2026
[@ SLP [CRL.] NO.13801/2026]

ASHOK KUMAR SONI

Appellant(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

Respondent(s)

O R D E R

Leave granted.

The appellant seeks bail in connection with FIR No.39/2025, dated 27.05.2025, registered with Police Station Kusmi, District - Balrampur, for the offences punishable under Sections 409, 420, 467, 468, 471, 120-B and 34 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

We have heard the learned counsel appearing for the parties.

Learned counsel appearing for the appellant submits that apart from the continued incarceration for more than one year, all other co-accused have been granted bail. Furthermore, the trial would certainly take substantial time as

there are more than 100 witnesses yet to be examined.

Learned counsel appearing for the State opposed the grant of bail by drawing attention of this Court to the allegations made.

We are inclined to set aside the impugned order not only on the ground of parity but also in view of the period of incarceration already undergone, coupled with the fact that considerable amount of time will be taken for the completion of trial as there are more than 100 witnesses to be examined.

Furthermore, the appellant seeks bail on medical ground which is not disputed by the learned counsel appearing for the State, except by stating that the treatment is being extended to the appellant.

In such view of the matter, we are inclined to grant bail to the appellant.

Accordingly, the impugned order stands set aside, and the appellant is granted bail on terms

and conditions to the satisfaction of the concerned Trial Court.

The appeal stands allowed, accordingly.

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

.....J.
[M.M. SUNDRESH]

.....J.
[PRASANNA B. VARALE]

NEW DELHI;
SEPTEMBER 25, 2026.

ITEM NO.14

COURT NO.4

SECTION II-C

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

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.)
No(s). 13801/2026

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order
dated 13-07-2026 in MCRC No. 6201/2026 passed by
the High Court of Chhattisgarh at Bilaspur]

ASHOK KUMAR SONI

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

Respondent(s)

IA No. 278977/2026 - GRANT OF BAIL

IA No. 278978/2026 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL
DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES

Date : 25-09-2026 This matter was called on for
hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M.M. SUNDRESH

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRASANNA B. VARALE

For Petitioner(s)

Dr. Rajesh Pandey, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Niranjan Marde, Adv.

Ms. Ayushi Pandey, Adv.

Ms. Swati Surbhi, AOR

For Respondent(s)

Mr. Apoorv Shukla, AOR

Ms. Prabhleen A. Shukla, Adv.

Ms. Ilashri Gaur, Adv.

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

Leave granted.

The appellant is granted bail on terms and conditions to the satisfaction of the Trial Court.

The appeal is allowed in terms of the signed order.

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

(ASHA SUNDRIYAL)
DEPUTY REGISTRAR

(POONAM VAID)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

[Signed order is placed on the file]