

NAFR

HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH, BILASPUR

W.P.(CR.) No. 898 of 2019

Neeraj @ Golu Mali, S/o. Late Shankar Mali, Aged About 39 Years, R/o. Mangla, Bilaspur, Police Station Civil Line, Tahsil and District Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.

---- Petitioner

Versus

1. State of Chhattisgarh, Through : The Jail Secretary, Home Department, Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan, New Raipur, Police Station Rakhi, District Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
2. The Jail Superintendent, Central Jail Raipur, Police Station and District Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
3. The Probation Officer, Chhattisgarh Rajya Pariviksha Mandal, Jail Department, Raipur, Police Station and District Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
4. Probation Board, Jail Headquarter, Raipur, Police Station and District Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

-----Respondents

For Petitioner	: Mr. Goutam Khetrapal, Advocate
For Respondent/State	: Mr. Devendra Pratap Singh, Dy.A.G..

Hon'ble Shri Justice Rajendra Chandra Singh Samant

Order On Board

30/09/2019

1. The instant petition under Article 226 of Constitution of India has been filed for issuance of appropriate direction.
2. It is submitted that the petitioner is life convict under going sentence in jail. He has undergone more than 7 years without remission, therefore, he has become entitled to be release on probation/license under the provisions of C.G. Prisoners Release on Probation Act, 1954 and Rules, 1964 for the reasons that he has under gone more than 1/3 of the sentence of imprisonment/ total period of 7 years without remission. On the basis of entitlement, the petitioner preferred an application under Rule 6 of C.G. Prisoners Release on Probation

Rules, 1964 (in Short Rules, 1964), before the respondent No.2, which was forwarded to the respondent No.4 and after consulting the said respondent No.4, the application was forwarded to the respondent No.1. There had been no objection regarding the release of petitioner on probation/license. The application of the petitioner has been arbitrarily rejected by the respondent No.1 without application of mind, which is an erroneous order. It is submitted that petitioner has peacefully served the sentence of imprisonment in full obedience to the rules and regulations and there is no adverse record against him. It is also submitted that the petitioner had been on bail after suspension of sentence and grant of bail during the pendency of criminal appeal in the High Court for about period of 12 years. Further the concerned authorities i.e. District Collector has also recommended for permanent release of the petitioner on probation on 12.04.2018. Therefore, the petitioner is eligible and entitled for release on probation. He is not a convict in the clause of prisoner, who shall not be released as provided under Rule 3 of Rules, 1964. The petitioner fulfills all the criteria for his release on probation. Relying on the judgment of Supreme Court in ***Arvind Yadav Vs. Ramesh Kumar & Ors.*** reported in **(2003) 6 SCC 144**. It is prayed that petition be allowed.

3. State counsel opposes the petition and submits that when the matter was placed before the respondent No.4, it was observed that the petitioner has committed the offence under Section 302 I.P.C. and the offence has been committed out side the Court premises, therefore, his crime is heinous in nature, hence for this reason, it was not recommended for his release. There is no illegality or infirmity in the impugned order. Therefore, it is prayed that the petition be dismissed.

4. I have heard the learned counsel for the parties and perused the documents placed on record.
5. The petitioner had filed application on 25.11.2017 vide Annexure P-2 in which his release was recommended by Jail Superintendent i.e. the respondent No.2. The District Magistrate has granted NOC for his release on probation. Looking to the gravity of the offence committed by the petitioner, his release on remission was declined by the respondent No.1, however, the petitioner does not fall any of the category that has been mentioned in Rule 3 of Rules, 1964, however, the eligibility for release, which is described under Rule -4 is as under :-

“4. ***Eligibility for release.*** Save the prisoners specified in Rule 3 any other prisoner who has served one-third of his sentence of imprisonment or a total period of five years [without remission], whichever is less, may be released by the Government on licence.

[Provided that in case of such prisoners who have been sentenced for life imprisonment, under Sections 302 and 305 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (No. 45 of 1860) or under the provisions of other penal laws in which death sentence is also one of the punishments subject to the conditions that such prisoners are not barred for such consideration under the provisions of such laws, will be considered for premature release from the prison. The eligibility for release shall be after undergoing the sentence of 14 years of actual imprisonment without remission of his sentence :

Provided further that all other prisoners, undergoing the sentence of life imprisonment, will be considered for premature release only after they have undergone at least 10 years of imprisonment with remission and after the completion of 7 years of actual imprisonment without remission in sentence :

Provided also that nothing in the above provisions shall apply to the prisoners whose cases are being sent to the Hon'ble Governor for consideration under Article 161 of the Constitution of India, on special reasons of humanitarian grounds].”

6. The first part of Rule 4 is enabling provision, whereas, the proviso is disabling provision in which it is very clearly mentioned that if the person is sentenced for life imprisonment under Section 302 and under this provision death sentence is also one of the punishment in such case if an application is filed under reference to first part of Rule 4 of Rules, 1964 shall be considered as premature. The entitlement for release which is mentioned in the initial part of Rule 4 of Rules, 1964 is governed by proviso clause. The case of the petitioner falls under second proviso as he is undergoing life sentence and his application for release on probation shall be considered only after he has undergone at least 10 years of imprisonment with remission and after the completion of 7 years of actual imprisonment without remission.
7. According to the facts presented, the petitioner has undergone more than 7 years in jail without remission and further reasons for rejection of his application is not mentioned as non-entitlement of the petitioner.
8. It has been observed by the Supreme Court in *Arvind Yadav Vs. Ramesh Kumar & Ors.* (*supra* in paragraph 6 & 7, which reads as under :-

“6. We are unable to sustain the impugned judgment of the High Court. Each of the convicts before the High Court had been found guilty of commission of serious crime. The impugned judgment notices that offences against the convicts were under [Sections 302, 307, 394, 304B, 498A, 325](#) of the Indian Penal Code and the convicts were

serving their respective sentences in jail. In all the cases before the High Court, the recommendations of the Probation Board that had been accepted by the State Government were against the release of the convicts. If there was non-application of mind to the relevant considerations, the appropriate course was to remand the case for fresh decisions by the authorities except, if in a given exceptional case, for strong cogent reasons, the High Court may have examined itself the relevant facts and quashed the order declining the release. The High Court instead of adopting this course, has made a general observation that the remand to State Government for fresh consideration is bound to delay the matter causing further injustice to the convicts.

7. Apart from the fact that there are factual infirmities in the impugned judgment, it is also to be borne in mind that the victim and the family of the victim who have suffered at the hands of the convict have also some rights. The convicts have no indefensible right to be released. The right is only to be considered for release on licence in terms of the Act and the Rules. The Probation Board and the State Government are required to take into consideration the relevant factors before deciding or declining to release a convict. In the present case, the Probation Board had not recommended the release. The State Government had confirmed the order of the Board. The writ petition had failed before the learned Single Judge. The facts of individual cases were not considered by the Division Bench. In the case of Ramesh Kumar, the stand of the State Government was that he along with six others had formed an unlawful assembly and murdered Jitendra son of Shashi Mohan Yadav on 20th September, 1994 in Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh causing 17 injuries on him with swords, knivas and gupti and that Ramesh Kumar was the accused in 14 cases filed under various sections [of the Indian Penal Code](#). The manner of Commission of crime is a relevant consideration. In a

given case, the manner of commission of offence may be so brutal that it by itself may be good sole ground to decline the licence to release. The Rules provide for detailed procedure for consideration of application for release. Once rejected, again application of release can be made after two years. The Board comprises of Home Secretary of State Government or any other empowered officer, I.G. of Prisons or Deputy I.G. and another member.”

9. On the basis of the observations made by the Supreme Court in *Arvind Yadav Vs. Ramesh Kumar & Ors.* (supra), the facts of this case are taken into consideration. The application of the petitioner was rejected only looking to the gravity of offence committed. The offence may appear to be brutal, it can not be made sole ground to decline the release on probation. There is no such fact present that the petitioner is having any criminal antecedents or there is any possibility, that he may further commit any crime. The reasons rejecting the petitioner's application, does not appear to be convincing, hence, for this reason and on the basis of the discussion made as aforesaid, I am of this view that the petition can be disposed off with appropriate direction.
10. Accordingly, the order passed by the respondent No.1 (Annexure P-1) is hereby set-aside and the respondent 4 is directed to re-consider the application of the petitioner for his release on probation/licence on the basis of the observations made by this Court herein above.

Sd/-
(Rajendra Chandra Singh Samant)
Judge

NAFR

HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH, BILASPUR

M.C.C. No. 965 of 2019

Neeraj @ Golu Mali, S/o. Late Shankar Mali, Aged About 39 Years, R/o. Mangla, Bilaspur, Police Station Civil Line, Tahsil and District Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.

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1. State of Chhattisgarh, Through : The Jail Secretary, Home Department, Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan, New Raipur, Police Station Rakhi, District Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
2. The Jail Superintendent, Central Jail Raipur, Police Station and District Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
3. The Probation Officer, Chhattisgarh Rajya Pariviksha Mandal, Jail Department, Raipur, Police Station and District Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
4. Probation Board, Jail Headquarter, Raipur, Police Station and District Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

-----Respondents

For Applicant	: Mr. Kapil Maini, Advocate
For Respondent/State	: Mr. Devendra Pratap Singh, Dy.A.G..

Hon'ble Shri Justice Rajendra Chandra Singh Samant

Order On Board

24/10/2019

1. This application has been filed for modification/correction in the order dated 30.09.2019, passed in W.P.(Cr.) No.898 of 2019.
2. It is submitted that in the details of the respondent No.2, it has been wrongly mentioned as District – Raipur, which should have been District – Bilaspur.

3. State counsel has no objection.
4. After considering on the submission made and the grounds in the petition, I feel inclined to allow this petition.
5. Accordingly the petition is allowed. It is ordered that in the details given regarding respondent No.2 instead of District – Raipur now be read as District -Bilaspur.
6. This order be made a part of the order dated 30.09.2019, passed in W.P.(Cr.) No.898 of 2019.

Sd/-
(Rajendra Chandra Singh Samant)
Judge

Balram