

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

CRIMINAL WRIT PETITION NO.254 OF 2023

Anupam Ashok Kumar Sharma Petitioner

versus

The State of Maharashtra & Anr. Respondents

.....

- Mr. Apoorv V. Singh, Advocate for Petitioner.
- Mr. Arfan Sait, APP for the State/Respondent.
- Ms. Ameeta Kuttikrishnan, Advocate for Respondent No.2.

CORAM : SARANG V. KOTWAL, J.

DATE : 31st OCTOBER, 2023

P.C. :

1. The Petitioner has approached this Court with the prayer that permission be granted/no objection be issued for issuance of fresh passport for a period of 10 years as per Rules of Passport Act.

2. Heard Mr. Apoorv V. Singh, learned counsel for the Petitioner, Ms. Ameeta Kuttikrishnan, learned counsel for the Respondent No.2 and Mr. Arfan Sait, learned APP for the State.

3. The Applicant is facing the prosecution for commission of offence punishable u/s 352, 509 of the Indian Penal Code, in C.C.NO.624/PW/2020 before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, 31st Court, Vikhroli, Mumbai. The Applicant had preferred an application for permission for renewal of passport for 10 years. The said application filed below Ex.8 in the said proceeding, was partly allowed by the learned Magistrate vide her order dated 21/09/2022. The learned Magistrate gave no objection for renewal of the passport for a period of one year though the prayer was made for 10 years.

4. I have considered these submissions. The passport authority does not have objection for renewal of the passport for more number of years. Considering that the Applicant is facing charges u/s 352, 509 of the Indian Penal Code, for which the maximum punishment is three years, permission for renewal of passport for more number of years can be granted.

5. Hence, the following order :

ORDER

- (i) Permission is granted for renewal of passport for a period of seven years.
- (ii) With these directions, the Petition is disposed of.

(SARANG V. KOTWAL, J.)