

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA
CRIMINAL APPEAL (DB) No.120 of 2009

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Sarojni Devi, wife of Krishnandan Singh, resident of Village- Itahri, Police
Station- Naya Ram Nagar, District- Munger

... .. Appellant

Versus

The State of Bihar

... .. Respondent

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Appearance :

For the Appellant : Mr. Ashutosh Kumar, Advocate
For the Respondent : Mr. Sujit Kumar Singh, A.P.P.

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CORAM: HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

and

HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE HARISH KUMAR

ORAL ORDER

(Per: HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE)

6 26-05-2026 Perused the report dated 02.05.2026 of the

Superintendent of Police, Munger along with the report dated
02.05.2026 of the S.H.O., Naya Ram Nagar Police Station,
Munger, which indicate that the sole appellant Sarojni Devi is
dead and the death certificate of the appellant is annexed with
the said report.

2. In view of the said reports as also section 394 of the
Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, which corresponds to
section 435 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023,
since no near relative has filed any application for leave to
continue the appeal and having regard to the settled position of



law as enunciated by the Hon'ble Division Bench of the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad in ***Santosh Kumar Baranwal v. State of UP, reported in 2010 SCC OnLine All 974***, wherein it has been categorically held that upon conviction under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the imposition of fine is discretionary in nature and does not partake the character of a mandatory requirement, and the legal position affirmed by the Hon'ble Division Bench of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay in ***Gopala Balu Kamble v. State of Maharashtra, reported in 2011 SCC OnLine Bom 1290*** being in consonance therewith, and whereas the appellant has since expired during the pendency of the present appeal and the conviction sought to be assailed pertains to the year 2008, and the State does not intend to pursue the recovery of the fine amount as imposed by the learned Trial Court, this Court, upon due consideration of the aforesaid facts, circumstances and settled legal position, hereby sets aside the order of imposition of fine passed by the learned Trial Court, and since the appeal insofar as it pertains to the sentence of imprisonment stands abated consequent upon the demise of the appellant, the present appeal is disposed of as having abated in its entirety.

3. Let the trial court record be sent back to the



concerned court immediately, if not required in any other case.

(Sangam Kumar Sahoo, CJ)

(Harish Kumar, J)

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