



**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

**Criminal Appeal No 4108 of 2024**  
(Arising out of SLP (CrI) No 11755 of 2024)

**Sunil Dammani**

**Appellant**

**Versus**

**Directorate of Enforcement**

**Respondent**

**ORDER**

- 1 Leave granted.
- 2 This appeal is at the instance of an under-trial accused and is directed against the order passed by the High Court of Chhattisgarh at Bilaspur dated 26 July 2024 in MCRC No 2112 of 2024, by which the High Court denied bail to the appellant in connection with ECIR bearing No RPZO/10/2022 registered under Sections 3 and 4 respectively of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002 (for short, 'PMLA').
- 3 We have heard Mr Vikas Pahwa, the learned senior counsel appearing for the appellant. Mr Zoheb Hussain and Mr Annam Venkatesh, the learned counsel opposed the plea of bail on behalf of the Directorate of Enforcement.

- 4 We take notice of the fact that the appellant is in custody since 23 August 2023.
- 5 *Prima facie*, the case against the appellant seems to be that he being a *hawala* operator, assisted the other accused persons in transferring the proceeds of crime. We also take notice of the fact that prosecution intends to examine almost ninety-eight witnesses. We are informed by Mr Zoheb Hussain and Mr Annam Venkatesh that the investigation so far as the appellant herein is concerned, is complete and complaint has also been lodged.
- 6 Without saying anything further on the merits, we are of the view that the appellant can be released on bail subject to certain terms and conditions as may be imposed by the court concerned. However, we on our own would also like to impose some conditions.
- 7 In the result, this appeal succeeds and is hereby allowed. The impugned order passed by the High Court is set aside.
- 8 The appellant is ordered to be released on bail, if not required in any other case, subject to the terms and conditions as may be imposed by the court concerned. However, we on our own would add two conditions that:
- (i) The appellant shall mark his presence every fifteen days at the office of the Enforcement Directorate of the district concerned; and

(ii) The appellant shall not leave the country without prior permission of the court concerned.

9 Pending applications, if any, stand disposed of.

.....J.  
**[J B Pardiwala]**

.....J.  
**[Manoj Misra]**

New Delhi;  
October 3, 2024  
CKB

ITEM NO.1

COURT NO.10

SECTION II-C

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A  
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (CrI.) No.11755/2024

(Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 26-07-2024 in MCRC No.2112/2024 passed by the High Court of Chhatisgarh at Bilaspur)

SUNIL DAMMANI

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT

Respondent(s)

(With IA No.193527/2024-EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.)

Date : 03-10-2024 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE J.B. PARDIWALA  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MANOJ MISRA

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Vikas Pahwa, Sr. Adv.  
Mr. Tushar Giri, Adv.  
Mr. Sahil BhalaiK, AOR  
Mr. Siddharth Anil Khanna, Adv.  
Mr. Ritik Arora, Adv.  
Mr. Shivam Mishra, Adv.  
Ms. Namisha Jain, Adv.  
Ms. Nancy Shamim, Adv.  
Mr. Ayush Mishra, Adv.  
Ms. Gulshan Jahan, Adv.

For Respondent(s) Mr. Zoheb Hussain, Adv.  
Mr. Annam Venkatesh, Adv.  
Mr. Vivek Gurnani, Adv.

**Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, AOR  
Ms. Aakriti Mishra, Adv.**

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

- 1 Leave granted.
- 2 The appeal is allowed in terms of the signed order.
- 3 Pending applications, if any, stand disposed of.

**(CHETAN KUMAR)  
A.R. -cum-P.S.**

**(SAROJ KUMARI GAUR)  
Assistant Registrar  
(Signed order is placed on the file)**