

## Govind Ram Agarwal Vs K. K. Dwivedi and Others

**Court:** Calcutta High Court

**Date of Decision:** March 18, 1986

**Acts Referred:** Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 & Section 12 Constitution of India, 1950 & Article 136, 21, 226, 32

**Citation:** (1986) CriLJ 1294 : 90 CWN 681

**Hon'ble Judges:** J.N. Chaudhuri, J; G.C. Chatterji, J

**Bench:** Division Bench

### Judgement

Jitendra Nath Chaudhuri, J.

This application has been assigned to this Bench by the learned Acting Chief Justice by his order dt. 3-3-86.

2. This is an interlocutory application filed on 15-2-86 of the petitioner, Sri Govind Ram Agarwal, signed by his son Suresh Kumar Agarwal, who

has also affirmed the affidavit to the said petition on 15th Feb. 1986. The Habeas Corpus application under Article 226 of the Constitution, in

which the present interlocutory application has been filed, is still pending before another learned Division Bench, The petitioner is a detenu under

the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 Act. No. 52 of 1974, the order of detention being dt. 8th

Nov. 1985.

3. Mr. Bholanath Sen, learned Counsel for the petitioner, initially submitted that in this application he does not pray for any temporary release on

parole of the petitioner. In his submission, since according to the Jail Authority the petitioner has to be operated upon for bleeding piles and the

same cannot be done in the Jail hospital, the petitioner should be allowed to be operated upon at his own expense either at the Woodlands Nursing

Home or the Belle Vue Clinic, Calcutta. He further submitted that the petitioner had no confidence in the hospitals in Calcutta, including the

Government Hospitals. He drew the attention of the Court to a report appearing in the newspaper ""Telegraph"" dt. 3rd Dec, 1985 of a Staff

Reporter wherein it is alleged that the Water at the SSKM Hospital, Calcutta was ""impure"".

4. Mr. Sen relied upon the decisions reported in Bhanudas Krishna Gawde Vs. K.G. Paranjape and Others, and AIR 1981 SC 746 : Francis

Coralie Mullin Vs. Administrator, Union Territory of Delhi and Others, . The decision reported in Bhanudas Krishna Gawde Vs. K.G. Paranjape

and Others, . Bhanu Das Krishna v. K.G. Paranjape is of a Division Bench of the Bombay High Court. Mr. Sen relies on the observation in para

14 thereof that a detenu under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 Act No. 52 of 1974

should be allowed to be attended or treated by his own Physician or Surgeon in the jail, but ""the jail authorities may well provide for the presence

of any jail attendant or jail doctor at the time when a detenu is being visited by his own physician or surgeon, so as to prevent the same being

misused for any sort of contact with the outside world which might be considered prejudicial to the objects of the Act"".

5. In the case reported in Francis Coralie Mullin Vs. Administrator, Union Territory of Delhi and Others, , the Supreme Court pointed out that

there is a vital distinction between ""preventive detention"" and ""punitive detention"". Preventive detention was intended to prevent a person from

indulging in conduct injurious to the society, while punitive detention was intended to inflict punishment. Having regard to this distinctive character

of preventive detention, the restrictions placed on a person preventively detained must, consistently with the effectiveness of detention be minimal

(para 3). The Supreme Court has further observed in this case, which was one under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of

Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 Act No. 52 of 1974, the jurisdiction of the Court having been invoked under Article 32 of the Constitution, that

the right to life enshrined in Article 21 includes the right to live with human dignity and all that goes along with it, namely, the bare necessities of

life"", and also ""the right to carry on such functions and activities as constitute the bare minimum expression of the human self (para 7).

6. On the day on which the order on this application was due to be made, Mr. Bholanath Sen prayed that the matter be reopened for further

arguments since he wished to rely upon an order of the Hon"ble Supreme Court, which was not available to him earlier. Mr. Jatin Ghosh did not

object to this prayer and accordingly, this application was fixed for further arguments on the 13th Mar., 1986. On that day, for the first time Mr.

Sen submitted that the petitioner should be released on Parole. Till then, Mr. Sen had specifically stated, and repeatedly stated that he did not want

any release on Parole and his entire submission had proceeded on that basis. On 13-3-1986 Mr. Sen filed a xerox copy of the certified copy of an

order dt. 21-2-86 passed by the Hon"ble Supreme Court on petitions for special leave under Article 136 of the Constitution Crl. Appellate

Jurisdiction) Appeal (Crls) Nos. 226 of 1986 Munnalal Prabhudas Shanna v. Union of India and 216 of 1986 Sm. Majulaben Amrutlal Soni v.

Union of India from the judgment and order of the Delhi High Court dated 11th Oct., 1985 passed in Crl. Writ Petition Nos. 221 and 222 of

1985. The order of the Hon"ble Supreme Court relied on, reads as follows :

Learned Counsel for the Union of India requests that some further time may be given for filing the counter. We are not inclined to grant any further

time in this case. But since the matter cannot be disposed of without a counter-affidavit, the matter is adjourned for one week to enable the Union

of India to file counter. In the meanwhile, both the detenus will be released on Parole.

7. Although when Mr. Sen had initially made his submissions (prior to 13-3-86) he had filed xerox copies of the certified copies of the orders of

the Hon"ble Supreme Court passed in Crl. Writ Petition No. 1208 of 1982 Original Jurisdiction, Robert D'za v. Delhi Administration & Ors. dt.

16-12-82 and in Crl. Writ Petition No. 301 of 1983 (Original Jurisdiction), Sri Harish Makhija v. State of Uttar Pradesh dt. 13-9-83, in both of

which the detenu concerned had been released on Parole, he had still specifically stated without any reservation that he was not asking for Parole.

The said order dt. 16-12-82 reads as follows:

Detenu be released on Parole at 3.0" clock today. The detenu to report once in two days to the Police Station, Bandra, Bombay.

The order dt. 13-9-83 reads as follows :

Heard Counsels for the parties. In the facts and circumstances of the case, we direct that the detenu will be released on Parole until further orders,

but during the period of Parole the detenu shall not leave Lucknow without obtaining the permission of the detaining authority. Liberty to the

Government to apply for cancellation of Parole if the detaining authority is satisfied that the detenu has misused the Parole. With this observation

the writ petition is disposed of.

8. Mr. Sen had relied at that time on the said orders dt. 16-12-82 and 13-9-83 not for the purpose that Parole be granted to the petitioner, but

only in support of his submission that the petitioner be allowed to be operated upon at his own expense either at the Woodlands Nursing Home or

the Balle Vue Clinic, Calcutta, as a detenu under proper escort.

9. Mr. Ghosh has objected to this prayer for release on Parole from being granted. Mr. Ghosh has submitted that in any event, the prayer for

Parole cannot be entertained by this Court since it is premature. In his submission, since the present detention order has been passed by the

Central Government the provisions of Section 12 and particularly Sub-section (1,2 and 6) of the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and

Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 Act No. 52 of 1974 are attracted, and no application has been made by or on behalf of the detenu

to the Central Government u/s 12 of the said Act. He has further submitted that from the orders relied upon of the Hon"ble Supreme Court, it does

not appear as to whether application u/s 12 of the said Act had been made by the detenu concerned prior to filing of the said petitions. Section 12,

Sub-sections (1, 2 and 6) of the said Act reads as follows :

Temporary release of persons detained --

(1) The Central Government may, at any time direct that any person detained in pursuance of a detention order made by that Government or an

officer subordinate to that Government or by a State Government or by an officer subordinate to a State Government, may be released for any

specified period either without condition or upon such conditions specified in the direction as that person accepts, and may, at any time, cancel his

release.

(2) In directing the release of any person under Sub-section (1) or Sub-section (1-A), the Government directing the release may require him to

enter into a bond with sureties for the due observance of the conditions specified in the direction.

(6) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law and save as otherwise provided in this section, no person against whom a detention order

made under this Act is in force shall be released whether on bail or bail bond or otherwise.

10. It is the admitted position in this case that no application has been made by or on behalf of the petitioner for temporary release under the

provisions of Section 12 of the said Act. From the orders of the Hon"ble Supreme Court which have been relied on by Mr. Sen as noted

hereinbefore, it cannot be ascertained as to whether the detenus in those cases made any application under the provisions of Section 12 of the said

Act. We hold that in view of the mandatory provisions of Section 12 Sub-section (6) of the said Act the prayer for release on Parole of the

petitioner is premature and hence, is rejected at this stage.

11. Mr. Ghosh has drawn the attention of the Court to the fact that the decision reported in Bhanudas Krishna Gawde Vs. K.G. Paranjape and

Others, relied upon by Mr. Sen was expressly reversed by the Supreme Court in the decision reported in Union of India (UOI) and Others Vs.

Bhanudas Krishna Gawde and Others, . He has further pointed out that the decision in Francis Coralie Mullin Vs. Administrator, Union Territory

of Delhi and Others, was considered by the Supreme Court in the decision reported in Devji Vallabhbhai Tandel Ors. Vs. Administrator of Goa,

Daman and Diu and Another, , which was also a case under the said COFEPOSA Act, 1974. He has submitted that since the Superintendent of

the Presidency Jail has stated in his report submitted to this Court ""that COFEPOSA detenu Gobindram Agarwal, a case of bleeding piles, is to be

sent to S.S.K.M. Hospital or any State Hospital for operation as advised by Dr. R.D. Ankelsaria, the Visiting Surgeon of this jail....", he has no

objection to the petitioner being taken as a detenu under proper escort to the S.S.K.M. Hospital or any State Hospital for operation as advised,

Mr. Ghosh however, objects to the prayer of the petitioner for being operated upon at a Nursing Home, inter alia, on the grounds that it will be

difficult to make the necessary security arrangement for the stay over night for a number of days at any place, not being a Government hospital and

that even Dr. Ankelsaria, has advised that the petitioner be sent to the S.S.K.M. Hospital or any State Hospital for operation, and has not advised

that such operation should be performed in any Nursing Home. He has further submitted that the right to live with human dignity will not be

impaired if the petitioner is operated upon in a Government Hospital and not in a Nursing Home of the petitioner's choice.

12. In our view, the observations of the Bombay High Court in the said decision reported in Bhanudas Krishna Gawde Vs. K.G. Paranjape and

Others, that the detenu should be allowed to be attended or treated by his own Physician or Surgeon in the Jail, with safeguards that "when the

detenu is visited by his own Physician or Surgeon, the same is not misused for any sort of contact with the outside world which might be

considered prejudicial to the objects of the Act", show that the Court in that case was considering the question of the treatment of the detenu in jail

only. The question as to whether he should be treated in a State or Government hospital as opposed to treatment in a Nursing Home of the

detenu's choice, did not arise for consideration in that case.

13. In the background of the social and economic condition existing in the country, when a person would, indeed, thank his lucky stars if he got

immediate admission into a Government hospital, considering the tremendous pressure for admission into such hospital in Calcutta, the claim by a

detenu to be operated upon only in a Nursing Home of his choice can hardly be said to fall within "the bare necessities of life". High Government

Officials, including Secretaries to the Government are treated and operated upon in Government Hospitals in Calcutta, since such benefits only are

allowed to them, and not Nursing Home benefits. We do not think that "the right to live with human dignity and all that goes along with it, namely,

the bare necessities of life," Francis Coralie Mullin Vs. Administrator, Union Territory of Delhi and Others, , will be impaired in the slightest if the

petitioner is operated upon in a Government hospital in Calcutta, and not in a Nursing Home of his choice. Moreover, the necessity of providing

for proper and effective escort and/or security, in the case of the detenu having to stay over-nights at premises not belonging to or under the

control of the Government may pose difficulties. The prayer of Mr. Sen that the petitioner be allowed to be operated in a Nursing Home for

bleeding piles is rejected. Moreover, one cannot overlook the fact that the ailment in this case is ""bleeding piles"", and not a case, where for instance

an open heart surgery or a delicate operation for a brain tumor is to be performed. In fact, we cannot but place on record our utter surprise that in

the Presidency Jail Hospital an operation for ""bleeding piles"" cannot be performed.

14. Having considered the facts and circumstances of this case we order as follows :

1) As soon as practicable after receiving a notice in writing from or on behalf of the petitioner, he will as a detenu, under proper escort be removed

to the S.S.K.M. Hospital, Calcutta or the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta, or any other Government Hospital in Calcutta of the petitioner's

choice for operation of the petitioner's bleeding piles.

2) The Superintendent of the Presidency Jail will make all necessary arrangements for sending the detenu-petitioner in custody and under such

escort armed or otherwise as he considers necessary, to the Government hospital concerned. Such escort will maintain constant watch over the

petitioner during the entire period of stay in such hospital and will escort the petitioner back to the jail as and when the said operation is performed

and/or the said hospital authorities recommend his release from the hospital. In the event of the hospital authorities" not finding such operation

necessary, the petitioner will be brought back to the Presidency jail under escort, as and when the said Hospital authorities release the detenu from

the hospital.

3) The Superintendent of the Presidency Jail will be at liberty to approach the Calcutta Police authorities for any necessary help for the purposes of

the security of the petitioner, as the Superintendent of the Presidency Jail may consider necessary for the purposes of giving effect to this order.

15. There will be no order as to costs.

16. The application is thus disposed of. Liberty to mention before the appropriate Bench is given to all the parties.

Gobinda Chandra Chatterji J.

17. I agree.