ITEM NO.32 COURT NO.2 SECTION X

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Writ Petition(s)(Criminal) No(s).129/2023

VIKTORIIA BASU Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL & ORS. Respondent(s)

IA No. 158783/2025 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS

Date : 26-09-2025 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SURYA KANT
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

For Petitioner(s) Mr. R.P. Luthra, Adv.
Mr. Anjani Kumar Mishra, AOR
Mr. Himanshu Luthra, Adv.
Mrs. Hardeep Kaur Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Praveen Mishra, Adv.
Mr. Arvind Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Siddharth Gautam, Adv.
Ms. Pulkit, Adv.
Mr. Akshay K Goswami, Adv.

For Respondent(s) Ms. Shraddha Chirania, Adv.
Mr. Kunal Mimani, AOR

Mr. Subhasish Bhowmick, AOR
Mr. Rahul Kushwaha, Adv.
Mr. Suraj Kumar Singh, Adv.
Mr. Reegan S Bel, Adv.
Mr. Rakesh Kumar Tiwari, Adv.
Mr. Sawan Kumar Shukla, Adv.
Mr. Ajeet Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Bishwani Kumar, Adv.
Mr. Ashutosh Singh, Adv.

Mr. Raj Bahadur Yadav, AOR
Mr. Shashank Bajpai, Adv.
Mr. Raman Yadav, Adv.
Mr. Abhishek Kumar Pandey, Adv.
Mr. Chitvan Singhal, Adv.
Mr. Kartikay Aggarwal, Adv.
Ms. Chitrangda Rastravara, Adv.
Mr. Mayank Pandey, Adv.

Signature Not Verified
Digitally signed by SATISH KUMAR YADAV
Date: 2025.09.27 12:52:13 IST
Reason:

Mr. Mukesh Kumar Singh, Adv.
Ms. Ameyvikrama Thanvi, Adv.

Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, AOR
Mr. Chitvan Singhal, Adv.
Ms. Ameyavikrama Thanvi, Adv.
Mr. Mukesh Kumar Singh, Adv.
Mr. Mohan Prasad Gupta, Adv.

Mr. Deepak Goel, AOR
Ms. Alka Goyal, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

1. Counsel for the Union of India states that besides a Status Report filed by the Delhi Police, a separate Status Report on behalf of the Ministry of External Affairs has also been filed yesterday. The same is not on record. The Registry is directed to tag it with the paperbook.

2. During the course of hearing, however, a xerox copy of the said Report, filed on behalf of the Ministry of External Affairs, has been handed over. We have perused the contents of both the Reports.

3. As per the Status Report filed on behalf of the Delhi Police, a notice under Section 94 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 was sent to the UAE Company to provide all the details of transaction and payment gateway used for making the payment, which confirmed that the booking of the tickets for the petitioner and the child was from the e-mail address of the petitioner's mother – Ms. Olga Zhigalina. The card number used for transaction was issued by the SberBank of Russia. Notices have been issued to determine the details and ownership of the card and connected accounts. It is further explained that as per the reply received from NCB, Kathmandu, Nepal, Viktoriia Basu departed from Nepal to UAE on 12.07.2025. The Blue Corner Notice, which has already been issued, is being actively pursued. Similarly, a Yellow Corner Notice has also been issued in the name of the minor child.

4. As regard to the investigation *qua* levy lifting, it is explained that this can happen through diplomatic channel only with Nepalese Authorities.

5. In this regard, we direct the Delhi Police to rigorously pursue the matter with Nepalese Authorities as well as with the Russian Embassy in India and continue to make an endeavour to seek custody of those who are suspected to be *prima facie* involved in commission of the offence as well as contempt of this Court.

6. Let a further Status Report with respect to such attempts made by the Delhi Police be placed on record.

7. As regard to the Status Report filed by the Ministry of External Affairs, we find that the Embassy of India in Moscow, vide two communications dated 18.09.2025 and 22.09.2025, has requested the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation to extend legal assistance in the investigation of FIR No.148/2025, dated 02.08.2025, registered with the Delhi Police. We are informed by counsel for the Union of India that no response has been received so far from the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation.

8. In this regard also, we would like to impress upon the Embassy of India to continue to resort to its diplomatic channels so as to persuade the Russian Authorities, including the learned Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation, to extend their assistance in tracing out Ms. Viktoriia Basu along with the minor child. We have reason to believe that the learned Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation will, having regard to the principles of mutuality and comity of courts, will extend full assistance in the subject matter.

9. The Ministry of External Affairs is also directed to file a fresh Status Report by 31.10.2025.

10. Post the matter for further hearing on 31.10.2025.

(SATISH KUMAR YADAV)
ADDITIONAL REGISTRAR

(PREETHI T.C.)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR