ITEM NO.6 Court 3 (Video Conferencing) SECTION X SUPREME COURT OF INDIA RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS Writ Petition(s) (Criminal) No(s). 270/2021 ASWATHY VINOD & ANR. Petitioner(s) VERSUS THE STATE OF KERALA & ORS. Respondent(s) (FOR ADMISSION ) Date : 22-09-2021 This petition was called on for hearing today. CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE A.M. KHANWILKAR HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DINESH MAHESHWARI HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE C.T. RAVIKUMAR For Petitioner(s) Mr. S.K. Bhattacharya, Adv. Ms. Malini Poduval, AOR Ms. Babita Sant, Adv. For Respondent(s) Mr. Jishnu M.L., Adv. Mr. G. Prakash, AOR Ms. Priyanka Prakash, Adv. Ms. Beena Prakash, Adv. UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following ORDER

Despite repeated adjournment given to the State Government to expedite the decision making process concerning the proposal for premature release of husbands [Vinod Kumar (Prisoner No. C 2509) and Manikantan (Prisoner No. C 703)] of the petitioners herein, they continue to be in custody over 28 years. Once again, further time is sought by the State Government.

For requesting further time, no satisfactory explanation is given as to why the State Government was unable to take final decision on the proposal within two weeks from 06.09.2021, as directed by this Court.

As a result, we have no other option, but to direct the release of the petitioners' husband [Vinod Kumar (Prisoner No. C 2509) and Manikantan (Prisoner No. C 703)] on bail, during the pendency of the writ petition. They should be released forthwith on bail on conditions as may be imposed by the Trial Court and not later than 48 hours from passing of this order.

Awaiting the decision of the State Government, list this writ petition after six weeks for further hearing.

Copy of this order be forwarded forthwith through email to the Secretary, Home Department, Government of Kerala as well as to the concerned Trial Court for information and necessary.

(DEEPAK SINGH) COURT MASTER (SH) (VIDYA NEGI) COURT MASTER (NSH)

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