

(2012) 05 DEL CK 0676

In the Delhi High Court

Case No : Writ Petition (C) 2574 of 2012

Parveen Begum and Another

APPELLANT

Vs

Appellate Authority And anr

RESPONDENT

Date of Decision : 15-05-2012

Acts Referred:

Constitution of India, 1950 — Article 226

Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, 1994 — Section 17, 2, 24(1), 3, 3(1)

Transplantation of Human Organs Rules, 1995 — Rule 4(A4), 4A, 6(A2), 6(F), 6A

Citation : (2012) 189 DLT 427

Hon'ble Judges : Vipin Sanghi, J

Bench : Single Bench

Advocate : Vikas Pahwa, Mr. B. Badrinath, for the Appellant; Sumeet Pushkarna, Advocate for the respondent No. 1/UOI. Mr. Subhash Kumar, Advocate for the respondent No. 2. Mr. Najmi Waziri, Standing Counsel with Mr. Vikrant Pachnanda, Advocate for the respondent No. 3, for the Respondent

Judgement

VIPIN SANGHI, J.—The petitioners have preferred the present writ petition to seek a writ of certiorari thereby quashing the order of rejection of the petitioners' appeal passed by the Appellate Authority on 24.04.2012. The petitioners also seek a writ of mandamus directing the respondents to accord approval to the petitioners for effecting transplant of kidney from petitioner No. 2 to petitioner No. 1. The respondents in the present writ petition are the Appellate Authority, namely the Director General of Health Services constituted u/s 17 of the Transplantation of Human Organ & Tissues Act, 1994 (the Act), the Authorisation Committee for Human Organ Transplant, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, constituted under Rule 6A2(ii) of the Transplantation of Human Organs Rules, 1995 (the Rules) and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

2. The case of the petitioners is that petitioner No. 1 is a home maker aged about 58 years and is a permanent resident of Darya Ganj, Delhi. Petitioner No. 2 is also a home maker aged about 38 years and a permanent resident of

Meerut, U.P. It is claimed that petitioner No.2 is related to petitioner No. 1, being the grand-daughter of the brother of petitioner No. 1's father. The petitioners have annexed to this petition the family pedigree to show the relationship between the two petitioners, which is as follows:

3. The petitioners state that petitioner No. 1 was suffering from high blood pressure since the year 1982. She started suffering from high blood sugar level since the year 1995. She underwent Angioplasty in the year 2008. At that stage, the falling condition of her kidney was diagnosed. It is stated that she has been receiving treatment from Dr. A.K. Bhalla, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi since the year 2008. The petitioners state that the condition of petitioner No. 1 has deteriorated over the years. Since June, 2011, the treating doctors have advised regular dialysis to petitioner No. 1. It was advised that kidney transplant could be the only possible sustainable option to save the life of petitioner No. 1.

4. The petitioners state that petitioner No. 2 being related to petitioner No. 1, had been regularly visiting petitioner No. 1. The relationship between the petitioners is as akin to a mother-daughter relationship. It is stated that petitioner No. 2 had in the past, taken care of petitioner No. 1 whenever she had fallen ill. The petitioners state that due to the fragile health of petitioner No. 1, petitioner No. 2 has been visiting her more often to enquire about her well-being. In June, 2011, when petitioner No. 2 learnt that petitioner No. 1 requires a kidney transplant, she offered to donate one of her kidneys to petitioner No.1. In August, 2011, the petitioners presented their application to the concerned department at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi requesting them to conduct the necessary tests for determining the medical compatibility of the two petitioners, so that petitioner No.2 may be able to donate one of her kidneys to petitioner No. 1.

5. The petitioners further state that on 16.08.2011, the Transplant Coordinator at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi sought issuance of "No Objection Certificate" from the State Authorisation Committee for Organ Transplant, Meerut, U.P. in terms of the Act. On 24.08.2011, upon medical examination of the two petitioners, it was confirmed that they are medically compatible to effect the said kidney transplant. The concerned department of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, in compliance with the provisions of the Act, required submissions of documents from the petitioners which were duly submitted in September, 2011. On 24.09.2011, Police Superintendent, Janpath, Meerut gave his approval to the proposed kidney transplant between the petitioners after making enquiries from petitioner No. 2, and satisfying himself of the genuineness of the consent so given by her of her own accord. On 26.09.2011, the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Meerut also conveyed his "No Objection" to the proposed transplant of one kidney of petitioner No. 2 into petitioner No. 1. According to the petitioners, this "No Objection" was accorded after examination of petitioner No. 2 by the SDM and upon arriving at a conclusion that the consent given by her was willful, and not under any threat or coercion. In January, 2012, the District Level

Authorisation Committee of Meerut permitted the proposed transplant to be conducted at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi. According to the petitioners, this permission was granted after conducting enquiries and thorough examination of petitioner No. 2. The said Committee consisted of seven members including the District Magistrate of Meerut, U.P. The petitioners further state that the State Authorisation Committee, U.P., after holding a meeting on 20.01.2012 accorded its approval to the proposed transplantation after considering all the documents, on 08.02.2012. This State Authorisation Committee consisted of seven members headed by the Principal Secretary, Medical Education.

6. The petitioners submit that the Authorisation Committee for Human Organ Transplant at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi, i.e. respondent No. 2 conducted its enquiry, with regard to the proposed transplant, on 17.02.2012 and directed production of documents and the other relatives of petitioner No. 1. Further meeting was held on 21.03.2012. On 05.04.2012, respondent No. 2 rejected the petitioners' case on the following grounds:

? There is no substantial proof of association between donor and recipient.

? Husband and close relatives not willing for donation.

? There is income disparity between donor and recipient.

7. The petitioners preferred W.P.(C.) No. 2322/2012 before this Court assailing the rejection of their case by respondent No. 2 on 05.04.2012. This writ petition was disposed of on 17.04.2012 directing that the writ petition itself be treated as the petitioners' appeal u/s 17 of the Act and be disposed of by the Appellate Authority, i.e. the Director General of Health Services, respondent No.1. The petitioners submit that on 24.04.2012, the petitioners appeared along with the husband of petitioner No. 1 and one more relative of the petitioners before the Appellate Authority at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi. They sought an opportunity of hearing. At about 05:00 P.M. the Appellate Authority perused the record of the case and called upon the petitioners to produce further documents in support of their case, if any. Since no documents were produced, the Appellate Authority passed the impugned order directing rejection of the appeal of the petitioner. This order was communicated to the petitioners on 25.04.2012.

8. When this writ petition was taken up on 01.05.2012, notice was issued and accepted on behalf of respondents No. 1 & 3 by Mr. Sumeet Pushkarna and Mr. Najmi Waziri, learned Standing Counsel for respondents No. 1 & 3 respectively. Looking to the urgency of the matter (as petitioner no.1 is on dialysis thrice a week), notice was directed to be issued to respondent No. 2 - the Authorisation Committee for Human Organ Transplant, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital returnable on 03.05.2012. Mr. Pushkarna, learned Standing Counsel for respondent No. 1 tendered in Court the video recordings made by respondent No.2 of the interviews conducted by it of not only petitioner No.1, but also petitioner No.2 and the relatives of both the petitioners on 14.02.2012, 02.03.2012, 15.03.2012 and 03.04.2012. The same were retained for being viewed by the Court.

9. On 03.05.2012, respondent No. 2 put in appearance through counsel. Since the four CDs, i.e. the video recordings of the interviews, as aforesaid, had been viewed by the Court, it was felt necessary that the exact transcripts along with English translation of the interviews should be brought on record, and directions to this effect were accordingly issued to respondent no.2. The respondents were also granted time to bring, on the date of hearing, their respective counter affidavits. A short affidavit was filed by respondent no.2 on 05.05.2012 along with the transcripts. However, translations have not been filed. Respondent No. 1 has also filed a short affidavit. The submission of the learned counsels were heard on 08.05.2012, when Mr. Pushkarna tendered the minutes prepared by the appellate committee of its meeting held on 24.04.2012, wherein it was decided to dismiss the petitioners statutory appeal.

10. The submission of Mr. Vikas Pahwa, learned senior counsel for the petitioner is that the authorization committee as well as the appellate authority completely misdirected themselves in conducting the enquiry under the provisions of the Act and the Rules. He submits that the enquiry was primarily focused on the question as to why one of the near relatives of petitioner no.1 was not coming forward to donate one of their kidneys. Mr. Pahwa submits that the purpose of holding the enquiry by the authorization committee is not to ascertain as to why a near relative is not coming forward to donate a kidney.

11. Mr. Pahwa submits that the scheme of the Act shows that there are two kinds of donors who can donate an organ or a tissue while they are alive. One is where the donor is a near relative as defined in Section 2(i) of the Act, i.e. spouse, son, daughter, father, mother, brother, sister, grandfather, grandmother, grandson or granddaughter. The other is a person who is not a near relative. Mr. Pahwa submits that the scheme of the Act and the Rules is not that a donor, who is not a near relative, would not be permitted to donate his organ/tissue, unless the recipient has exhausted all possibilities of receiving the organ/tissue from a near relative.

12. Mr. Pahwa submits that no priority is accorded to a donor who is a near relative of the recipient. He submits that Section 9(3) of the Act is independent of sub section (1) of Section 9. Section 9(1) provides that no human organ or tissue, or both, removed from the body of a donor before his death, shall be transplanted into a recipient unless the donor is a near relative of the recipient. However, sub section (1) of Section 9 begins with the phrase "Save as otherwise provided in sub section (3)".

13. Mr. Pahwa submits that the enquiry required to be conducted by the authorization committee was to ascertain whether a commercial transaction is involved in the donor offering his/her organ/tissue to the recipient. He submits that, in the present case, the authorization committee did not focus on the aforesaid aspect at all. Rather, its enquiry centered around the issue as to why one of the near relatives of the petitioner no.1 was not ready and willing, and not in a position to donate one kidney to petitioner no.1. Merely because one of the

near relatives of petitioner no.1 was not coming forward to donate kidney to petitioner no.1, the case of the petitioners has been rejected by the Authorisation Committee.

14. Mr. Pahwa submits that the Act is not a prohibitory Act. It does not seek to prohibit transplant of human organ/tissue. It only seeks to regulate the same. What is prohibited is the commercial transaction in the giving or taking of an organ/tissue. Mr. Pahwa submits that the Authorisation Committee has merely proceeded on the basis of suspicion, while rejecting the petitioners' case, without even drawing a conclusion of a commercial transaction in the present case.

15. Mr. Pahwa submits that, even otherwise, suspicion - howsoever strong, cannot take the place of proof- for arriving at a conclusion of a commercial transaction. In the present case, there was no basis for the Authorisation Committee to even entertain the slightest suspicion, as both the petitioners, and the other family members of the petitioners had candidly answered all the questions put by the Authorisation Committee during the course of interviews, and nothing incriminating had come out to suggest the existence of a commercial transaction between the parties.

16. Mr. Pahwa further submits that the Authorisation Committee is obliged to use its discretion judiciously and pragmatically, and to record its reasons in all cases. He submits that, in the present case, the Authorisation Committee has completely failed in this regard.

17. Mr. Pahwa further submits that the Authorisation Committee, in the present case, sat over the petitioners case for about nine months, during which period the condition of the petitioner no.1 has only deteriorated. He submits that the delay caused by the Authorisation Committee itself indicated the indifferent and insensitive manner in which the Authorisation Committee has proceeded to consider the petitioners case for transplant of a kidney.

18. Mr. Pahwa submits that the Authorisation Committee of the State of U.P. as well as various other authorities in the State of U.P. repeatedly gave their no objections and approval to the proposed transplant of a kidney of petitioner no.2 to petitioner no.1. He submits that these authorities ascertained the ground level realities, facts and circumstances. The respondent no.2, Authorisation Committee did not conduct any such enquiry, and only interviewed the petitioners and their other relatives. Yet, they chose to differ from the reports and conclusions drawn by the said authorities for no rhyme or reason.

19. In support of his submissions, Mr. Pahwa has placed reliance on the following decisions:

- i) Arup Kumar Das v. State of Ori, AIR 2011 Ori 21;
- ii) Manoranjan Rout and Another Vs. State of Orissa and Others,
- iii) Jaswinder Singh v. State of Punjab, 2008 (3) RCR (Crl.) 93 (DB);

iv) Mehul Kishorsinh Jadeja Vs. Amarjit Singh (I.A.S.) Appellate Authority and Commissioner of Health and Others,

v) S Samson v. Authorisation Committee, 2008 AIR Mad 227; and

vi) Balbir Singh v. Authorisation Committee, AIR 2004 Del 413.

20. The submissions on behalf of the respondents have primarily been made by Mr. Pushkarna. The other respondents have merely adopted the same. Short affidavits have been filed by the Union of India and the Authorisation Committee.

21. The primary submission of Mr. Pushkarna is that if one were to read the transcripts of the interviews, it would appear that the family of petitioner no.1 is well-off, whereas petitioner no.2 hails from a poor family, and there is economic disparity between the two. He submits that during the course of their interviews, the petitioners have admitted that the petitioner no.1 and her family had taken care of petitioner no.2 and her family in the past, ever since the husband of petitioner no.2 died about 18 years back. On this basis, it is argued that the possibility of a commercial transaction between the parties cannot be ruled out.

22. Mr. Pushkarna submits that the Authorisation Committee consists of various doctors and specialists, and also consists of persons of high integrity and social standing and credibility from different fields. He submits that this Court cannot substitute its own opinion, for the opinion of the Authorisation Committee, which has to be respected and accepted.

23. Mr. Pushkarna submits, by placing reliance upon the introduction of the Act, that the focus of the Act is to regulate the removal of organs from cadavers and living persons, and to prohibit commercial dealings in human organs. He places reliance upon the judgment of the Supreme Court in *Kuldeep Singh and Another Vs. State of Tamil Nadu and Others*, and the judgment of Punjab and Haryana High Court in *Poonam Gupta v. State of Punjab & Ors.*, AIR 2009 P&H 162.

24. By placing reliance on *Kuldeep Singh (supra)*, Mr. Pushkarna submits that the Authorisation Committee has to be satisfied that the authorisation for removal is not for commercial consideration. The authorisation is committee is required to satisfy that when the donor authorises removal of his organ, it is by reason of affection or attachment towards the recipient, or for other special reason. Such special reasons can, by no stretch of imagination, encompass commercial elements.

25. Mr. Pushkarna submits that the burden is on the applicants to establish the real intent behind the proposed organ/tissue donation, by placing relevant materials for consideration of the Authorisation Committee. Whether there exists any affection or attachment or special reason is within the special knowledge of the applicants, and a heavy burden lies on them to establish it.

26. In his rejoinder, Mr. Pahwa points out that Rules 4A and 6A of the Rules have been introduced in the Rules after the judgment of the Supreme Court in *Kuldeep*

Singh (supra) was rendered. In fact, the said Rules have been introduced as a consequence of the said decision in Kuldeep Singh (supra).

27. This Court, while exercising its extraordinary writ jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, does not sit as an appellate forum to examine or reassess the case on merits, after a statutory authority has formulated its view, upon examination of the merits of the case. This Court is primarily concerned with the compliance of the procedural aspects, and the application of the correct principles laid down statutorily, or otherwise, in the decision making process of the concerned authority. This Court would interfere in an appropriate case, where the Government or a statutory authority or a public authority has failed to exercise, or has wrongly exercised the discretion conferred upon it under the statutory rule or a policy decision of the Government, or has exercised such discretion malafide or on irrelevant considerations, or by ignoring the relevant considerations and materials, or in such a manner as to frustrate the object conferring such discretion, or the policy, for implementation for which such discretion has been conferred. (see Comptroller and Auditor-general of India, Gian Prakash, New Delhi and Another Vs. K.S. Jagannathan and Another,

28. The submission of Mr. Pahwa is that the Authorisation Committee while rejecting the petitioners case has misdirected itself, and has taken into consideration irrelevant considerations, and not focused on the enquiry that it was expected to carry out by applying guidelines and yardsticks statutorily prescribed.

29. To be able to examine this submission, I consider it necessary to take note of the statutory provisions contained in the Act and the Rules.

30. The expression "donor" is defined in Section 2(f) to mean any person, not less than eighteen years of age, who voluntarily authorises the removal of any of his human organs or tissues or both for therapeutic purposes under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) of section 3.

31. Section 2 (i) defines "near relative" to mean spouse, son, daughter, father, mother, brother, sister, grandfather, grandmother, grandson or granddaughter.

32. The expression "payment" is defined in Section 2(k) to mean payment in money or money's worth but does not include any payment for defraying or reimbursing; (i) the cost of removing, transporting or preserving the human organ or tissue or both to be supplied; or (ii) any expenses or loss of earnings incurred by a person so far as reasonably and directly attributable to his supplying any human organ or tissue or both from his body.

33. The expression "recipient" is defined in Section 2(m) to mean a person into whom any human organ or tissue or both is, or is proposed to be, transplanted.

34. The expression "therapeutic purposes" is defined in Section 2 (o) to mean systematic treatment of any disease or the measures to improve health according to any particular method or modality.

35. The expression "transplantation" is defined in Section 2 (p) to mean the grafting of any human organ or tissue or both from any living person or deceased person to some other living person for therapeutic purposes.

36. Section 3 (1) provides that any donor may, in such manner and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed, authorise the removal, before his death, of any human organ or tissue or both of his body for therapeutic purposes.

37. Section 3 (4) provides that the authority given, inter alia, under sub-section (1) shall be sufficient warrant for the removal, for therapeutic purposes, of the human organ or tissue or both but no such removal shall be made by any person other than the registered medical practitioner.

38. Section 9 of the Act deals with restrictions on removal and transplantation of human organs or tissue or both. In so far as it is relevant, the same reads as follows:

9. Restrictions on removal and transplantation of human organs or tissue or both.-

(1) Save as otherwise provided in sub-section (3), no human organ or tissue or both removed from the body of a donor before his death shall be transplanted into a recipient unless the donor is a near relative of the recipient.

(2) x x x

(3) If any donor authorises the removal of any of his human organs or tissue or both before his death under sub-section (1) of section 3 for transplantation into the body of such recipient, not being a near relative, as is specified by the donor by reason of affection or attachment towards the recipient or for any other special reasons, such human organ or tissue or both shall not be removed and transplanted without the prior approval of the Authorisation Committee.

(3A) x x x

(4) x x x

(5) On an application jointly made, in such form and in such manner as may be prescribed, by the donor and the recipient, the Authorisation Committee shall, after holding an inquiry and after satisfying itself that the applicants have complied with all the requirements of this Act and the rules made thereunder, grant to the applicants approval for the removal and transplantation of the human organ.

(6) If, after the inquiry and after giving an opportunity to the applicants of being heard, the Authorisation Committee is satisfied that the applicants have not complied with the requirements of this Act and the rules made thereunder, it shall, for reasons to be recorded in writing, reject the application for approval.

(Emphasis supplied)

39. The Central Government has framed the rules under the Act by resort to Section 24 (1) which are known as the Transplantation of Human Organs Rules, 1995.

40. Rule 4A states that a registered medical practitioner who will be part of the organ transplantation team for carrying out transplantation operation shall not be a member of the Authorisation committee constituted under the provision of clauses (a) and (b) of sub-section (4) of section 9 of the Act.

41. Sub-Rule (4) of Rule 4A is relevant and the same reads as follows:

(4) When the proposed donor and the recipient are not "near relatives", as defined under clause (i) of section 2 of the Act, the Authorisation Committee shall evaluate that,-

(i) there is no commercial transaction between the recipient and the donor and that no payment or money or moneys worth as referred to in the Act, has been made to the donor or promised to be made to the donor or any other person;

(ii) the following shall specifically be assessed by the Authorisation Committee:-

(a) an explanation of the link between them and the circumstances which led to the offer being made;

(b) reasons why the donor wishes to donate;

(c) documentary evidence of the link, e.g., proof that they have lived together, etc;

(d) old photographs showing the donor and recipient together;

(iii) that there is no middleman or tout involved;

(iv) that financial status of the donor and the recipient is probed by asking them to give appropriate evidence of their vocation and income for the previous three financial years. Any gross disparity between the status of the two must be evaluated in the backdrop of the objective of preventing commercial dealing;

(v) that the donor is not a drug addict or known person with criminal record;

(vi) that the next of the kin of the proposed unrelated donor is interviewed regarding awareness about his or her intention to donate an organ, the authenticity of the link between the donor and the recipient and the reasons for donation. Any strong views or disagreement or objection such kin shall also be recorded and taken note of.

(Emphasis supplied)

42. Rule 6A deals with the aspect of composition of Authorisation Committees, which provides that there shall be one State Level Authorisation Committee. It also provides that Additional Authorisation Committees may be set up at various levels as per norms contained in the sub-Rule.

43. Clause (ii) of Rule 6A(2) provides that Authorisation Committee should be Hospital based in Metro and big cities if the number of transplants exceeds 25 in a year at the respective transplantation centers.

44. I may note at this stage itself that the Authorisation Committee which has dealt with the petitioner's case is a Hospital based Authorisation Committee of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, constituted under Rule 6A (2) (ii).

45. The composition of Hospital based Authorisation Committee (to be constituted by the State Government and, in the case of Union territory, by the Central Government) is as follows:

(a) the senior most person officiating as Medical Director or Medical Superintendent of the Hospital;

(b) two senior medical practitioners from the same hospital who are not part of the transplant team;

(c) two members being persons of high integrity, social standing and credibility, who have served in high ranking Government positions, such as in higher judiciary, senior cadre of police service or who have served as a reader or professor in University Grants Commission approved University or are self-employed professionals of repute such as lawyers, chartered accountants and doctors (of Indian Medical Association) etc.; and

(d) Secretary (Health) or nominee and Director Health Services or nominee.

46. Rule 6F deals with the aspects on which the Authorisation Committee shall focus its attention. For our purpose clause (d) of Rule 6F is relevant, which deals with proposed transplant between individuals who are not near relatives. The scope of enquiry of the Authorisation Committee is the same as is set out in Rule 4A(4). The said clause reads as follows:

6F (d) Where the proposed transplant is between individuals who are not "near relatives", the Authorisation Committee shall evaluate:-

(i) that there is no commercial transaction between the recipient and the donor. That no payment of money or moneys worth as referred to in the Act, has been made to the donor or promised to be made to the donor or any other person. In this connection, the Authorisation Committee shall take into consideration:-

(a) an explanation of the link between them and the circumstances which led to the offer being made;

(b) documentary evidence of the link, e.g., proof that they have lived together etc;

(c) reasons why the donor wishes to donate; and

(d) old photographs showing the donor and the recipient together.

(ii.) that there is no middleman/tout involved;

(iii.) that financial status of the donor and the recipient is probed by asking them to give appropriate evidence of their vocation and income for the previous three financial years. Any gross disparity between the status of the two, must be evaluated in the backdrop of the objective of preventing commercial dealing;

(iv) that the donor is not a drug addict or a known person with criminal record;

(v) that the next of kin of the proposed unrelated donor is interviewed regarding awareness about his\\her intention to donate an organ, the authenticity of the link between the donor and the recipient and the reasons for donation. Any strong views or disagreement or objection of such kin may also be recorded and taken note of.

(Emphasis supplied)

47. Clause (f) of Rule 6F provides that in the course of determining eligibility of the applicant to donate, the applicant should be personally interviewed by the Authorisation Committee and minutes of the interview should be recorded. Such interviews with the donors are required to be videographed. I may note that in the present case, the Authorisation Committee of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital has videographed not only the interviews conducted with the petitioner No. 2, the proposed donor, but that of all other persons interviewed. This aspect shall be considered a little later.

48. Clauses (g), (h) & (i) of Rule 6F are relevant and they read as follows:

(g) In case where the donor is a woman greater precautions ought to be taken. Her identity and independent consent should be confirmed by a person other than the recipient. Any document with regard to the proof of residence or domicile and particulars of parentage should be relatable to the photo identity of the applicant in order to ensure that the documents pertain to the same person, who is the proposed donor and in the event of any inadequate or doubtful information to this effect, the Authorisation committee may in its discretion seek such other information or evidence as may be expedient and desirable in the peculiar facts of the case.

(h) The Authorisation Committee should state in writing its reason for rejecting / approving the application of the proposed donor and all approvals should be subject to the following conditions:-

(i) that the approved proposed donor would be subjected to all such medical tests as required at the relevant stages to determine his biological capacity and compatibility to donate the organ in question.

(ii) further that the psychiatrist clearance would also be mandatory to certify his mental condition, awareness, absence of any overt or latent psychiatric disease and ability to give free consent.

(iii) all prescribed forms have been and would be filled up by all relevant persons involved in the process of transplantation.

(iv) all interviews to be video recorded.

(i) The Authorisation Committee shall expedite its decision making process and use its discretion judiciously and pragmatically after recording the reasons in all such cases where, the patient requires immediate transplantation.

(Emphasis supplied)

49. From the above statutory provisions and the scheme of the Act, it becomes clear that the Act and the Rules do not seek to prohibit, but to only regulate the transplant of organs and tissues from cadavers and living human beings. What is prohibited is the commercial transaction in the giving and taking of organs and tissues. However, donations offered out of love and affection - even amongst those who are not near relatives, is permitted. The aforesaid scheme under the Act recognizes two of the greatest human virtues of love and sacrifice, and also the fact that such intense love and affection need not necessarily be felt only for one's own blood or spouse, but could also extend to those not so closely related, or for those not related at all.

50. From the scheme of the Act and the Rules it appears that organ/tissue donation by a person before his death can be made not only for the therapeutic purposes of a recipient who is a near relative, i.e., son, daughter, father, mother, brother, sister, grandfather, grandmother, grandson or granddaughter, but also for therapeutic purposes of persons/recipients who do not fall within the definition of the expression "near relative". Section 9(1) of the Act, while generally providing that no human organ or tissue, or both, removed from the body of a donor before his death shall be transplanted into a recipient, unless the donor is a near relative of the recipient, saves from application of this general rule, cases which fall under sub-section (3) of section 9. Therefore, a donor, who is not a near relative of the recipient may by reason of "affection, or attachment towards the recipient or for any other special reasons" authorise the removal of his human organ or tissue or both for transplantation in a recipient for therapeutic reasons. The caveat is that in such circumstances prior approval, before removal and transplantation, would be required of the Authorisation Committee.

51. It also needs to be emphasized that an approval of the Authorisation Committee is necessary and required to be obtained only in such cases, where the donor and recipient are not near relatives, or in cases where the donor or the recipient, being near relatives, is a foreign national (see Section 9(1A)). The role of the Authorisation Committee comes into play primarily in cases where the donor and the recipient are not near relatives, and it is the function of the Authorisation Committee to ascertain and evaluate, by applying the guidelines/yardsticks and tests provided in Rule 4A(4) and 6F(d) of the Rules, whether there is a commercial transaction between the recipient and the donor, and to ensure

that no payment of money or monies worth has been made to the donor, or promised to be made to the donor or any other person on account of the fact that the donor has agreed to donate an organ or tissue to the recipient. The Authorisation Committee is required to enquire whether the donor is offering his organ/tissue by reason of affection or attachment towards the recipient or for any other special reasons. The law also mandates that the approach of the Authorisation Committee in such matters has to be pragmatic and its discretion has to be used judiciously, particularly in cases which require immediate transplantation.

52. I have viewed the four video recordings made by the Authorisation Committee for Human Organ Transplantation, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi of the interviews conducted by it on 14.02.2012, 02.03.2012, 15.03.2012 & 03.04.2012. I have also examined the transcripts of the said interviews provided by respondent No. 2. A perusal of the said video recordings and transcripts leave no manner of doubt that the said Committee has completely misdirected itself while rendering its decision to refuse the case of petitioner No. 1 for transplant of a kidney which petitioner No. 2 agreed to donate to petitioner No. 1.

53. I have analysed the various queries and responses contained in the interviews conducted by the Authorisation Committee of the two petitioners and their family members. They present a startling picture. Of the 162 questions posed by the Authorisation Committee to all the interviewees (including the petitioners), 41 questions, i.e. more than 25% are only to enquire, and that too repeatedly, as to why a near relative of petitioner no.1 - the recipient, is not donating a kidney to her. This, with due respect to the Authorisation Committee, is wholly irrelevant and not required to be gone into by the Authorisation Committee. The enquiry before the Authorisation Committee proceeds on the footing that the recipient and the donor are not near relatives (except in cases covered by section 9(1A)). The Authorisation Committee is not required to enquire into the question as to why a near relative of the recipient is not ready or willing to, or in a position, to donate their organ/tissue to the recipient. Merely because, in a given case, a near relative may not be willing to donate his/her organ/tissue to the recipient, is not ground to either raise a suspicion of a commercial transaction, or to reject the case altogether. It is not the mandate of the Authorisation Committee to compel or drive the near relative of the recipient to donate their organ/tissue to the recipient. Unfortunately, that is what appears to have been the theme of the exercise undertaken by the Authorisation Committee in the present case.

54. To illustrate the aforesaid position, I may only quote a few extracts from the interview conducted by the Authorisation Committee:

(a) Interviewer :

Abhi ye batiye ki aapke apne khandan ke itne log hai, ek to aapka beta jiska naam hai Amir Khan, theek ahi. Wo aapko de sakta tha. Wo nahi de rahe hai.

Aapke ek beti hai, unki chalo.

Parveen Begum :

Unki marriage ho gaye hai.

Interviewer :

Manke chalo wo hum manne ke liye tayyar hai. Ab aapka ek aur beta hai, Waseem Khan, uski biwi bolti hai main nahi dene dongi. Aur aapke husband, aap bolte hai unko. Apni family mein sabko bolte hai mana, aur dosre ke family se aap chahte nahi.

(from the interview of petitioner no.1 conducted on 14.02.2012 at page 10 of the affidavit of respondent no.2 dated 05.05.2012.)

(b) Interviewer :

Aap apne husband ko nahi lena chahti. Aapke ladke ki wife nahi dena chahti, lekin aap doosri family se lena chahtey hain.

(from the interview of petitioner no.1 conducted on 14.02.2012 at page 11 of the affidavit of respondent no.2 dated 05.05.2012.)

(c) Interviewer :

Kyonki aisa hai ki pehle to maa baap ke liye beta beti ka hota hai farz, ya beta beti ke liye ma baap ka hota hai. Ve hi bolenge nahi hum to khatra nahi molte to baki public jo hai jab aata hai to kabhi na kabhi sochne wali baat hai, kyon aa raha koi. Jab beta hi nahi aa raha hai, to door ke rishtedar kyon aata hai. Usko bhi utna hi dar hoga, utna hi khatra hoga, jaan sabko pyari hoti hai. Jisne aap ko paida kiya, uske liye aapko sochna par raha to jiska kisi ke koi matlab hi nahi door door tak usko kya karan hai ki wo de rahi hai.

(from the interview conducted on 02.03.2012 of Sh. Waseen, son of petitioner no.1.at page 11 of the affidavit of respondent No. 2 dated 05.05.2012)

(d) Interviewer :

Ye problem is wajah se ho rahi hai ki jo aap ke nazdiki hai wo kisi na kisi wajah se kisi ko koi mana kar raha hai, kisi ko koi wife mana kar rahi hai, is wajah se ye saari problem ho rahi hai.

(from the interview of petitioner no.1 conducted on 15.03.2012 at page 23 of the affidavit of respondent no. 2 dated 05.05.2012)

55. Pertinently, the Authorisation Committee did not ask the petitioners or their family members even one question as to whether there was any financial dealing or transaction between the recipient and the donor, underlying the offer made by the donor to donate one of her kidneys to the recipient.

56. From the umpteen comments of the members of the Authorisation

Committee, and from their questions posed to the interviewees also, it is abundantly clear that their decision is based fundamentally on the premise that a near relative of petitioner No. 1 is not willing to donate his/her kidney to petitioner no.1; that there is no single photograph of petitioner no.1 and petitioner no.2 showing them in the same frame; that the relationship is distant between the two petitioners, and; that there is economic disparity between them.

57. I may also note that each one of those interviewed, including the two petitioners, stated that petitioner no.2 had been coming over to live with petitioner no.1 of and on.

58. What has been completely missed out by the Authorisation Committee is the fact that during the course of her interview, the donor clearly and candidly stated during her interview conducted on 14.02.2012 (at page 14 of the affidavit of respondent no.2 dated 05.05.2012) that petitioner no.1, her Mausi, had helped her a great deal, after the demise of her husband about 15-17 years ago. She stated that petitioner no.1 is the sister of her mother in relationship. She further stated that she had three children and she faced great difficulty in bringing them up and in getting them married. She stated that she has got her children married and now she is free from her obligation. She also stated that the family of petitioner no.1 supported her a lot in her difficult times. She further goes on to state that both her daughters were got married by the family of petitioner no.1. She states that she does not have anything else, and she thought that by offering her kidney to petitioner no.1, she could reduce the suffering of petitioner no.1. She clearly brings out the love, affection and gratitude felt by her for petitioner no.1 and her family, and she conveys that she wanted to reciprocate in time of need of petitioner No. 1 and, therefore, she offered one of her kidneys to petitioner no.1.

59. I consider it appropriate at this stage to quote the following extract from the interview of Ishrat conducted on 14.02.2012 (at page 14 of the affidavit of respondent no.2):

Interviewer :

Koi karan hai, aapko pata hai kyon nahi de rahe hai.

Ishrat :

Nahi Sir Ji, ye hain na ki mere husband khatam ho gaye kariban 15-17 saal ho gaye hain, to inhone meri bahaut madad kari mausi ne meri. Ye hamari mummi ki behan lagti hai. Is tarah to 3 bacche maine pale hai bari pareshani se, phir unki phir shaadi kari. Teeno baccho se farig ho gayi. Inke bacchon ne, inhone bahaut sahara lagaya mere ko.

Interviewer :

Aapaka ek hi baccha hai.

Ishrat :

Ji. Dono betiyon ki shaadi bhi inhone hi kari thi. Mere pass aur to kuch nahi. Maine kahi talif thori inki kum ho jayegi is wajah se, ke itni inhone shuru se mere saath karti hui aa rahi hain, to maine bhi keh diya.

60. The submission of Mr. Pushkarna, that the aforesaid shows the existence of a commercial transaction between the parties, as a result of which petitioner no.2 is willing to offer her kidney to petitioner no.1, has no merit. Both the Authorisation Committee and the learned counsel Mr. Pushkarna, by claiming that the acts of good deed done gratuitously by petitioner no.1 and her family for petitioner no.2 and her family, amount to payment within the meaning of section 2(k) of the Act, are completely discounting the human qualities and virtues of love, affection, compassion and generosity. The acts of generosity, which petitioner no.2 admits to have been done by petitioner no.1 and her family, span about two decades prior to petitioner no.1 becoming so sick as to require a kidney transplant. When those acts were performed by petitioner no.1 and her family members, they were not performed with the calculation, or design that one day petitioner no.1 would require a kidney, which they could demand petitioner no.2 to provide. The relationship between the two petitioners, though distant, stands fairly established. It is not uncommon when to find that people, who may either be distantly related or not related at all, may come much closer due to their affinity for each other, or due to quirk of fate, than even their own parents, siblings or children.

61. The expression "payment" defined in section 2(k) of the Act refers to the payment made by a donor or on his/her behalf to a recipient, or someone on his/her behalf, as consideration for the donation of an organ/tissue by the donor to the recipient. It does not refer to a contribution, gift or monetary support made or granted gratuitously in the past, when even the need for organ/tissue transplant was not in existence. The test is, whether the said payment would not have been made but for the donor agreeing to donate his/her organ/tissue. In this case, the financial assistance was rendered way back in history, with no such strings attached. It could not have been in anybody's contemplation that the petitioner No. 1 would require a transplant in future after many years, or that petitioner No. 2 would be found medically matching the parameters of petitioner No. 1. It cannot be said that the financial assistance received by petitioner No. 2 over two decades would qualify as "payment" within the meaning of Section 2(k) of the Act.

62. There appears to be no doubt that petitioner no.1 and her family are financially more sound, when compared to petitioner no.2 and her family, and petitioner No. 2 and her family have received financial assistance from petitioner No. 1 and her family. But that does not mean that petitioner no.1 or her family can be said to have put a condition that, when they require, they would extract their pound of flesh in future, as and when the need arises. There is no basis for such an assumption to be made by anyone, including the Authorisation Committee.

63. Keeping in view the past relationship between the parties and their respective conducts, it may be that, in future, in case the need arises, petitioner no.1 and her family may again financially help petitioner no.2 and her family. But that cannot be a reason for the Authorisation Committee to conclude the existence of a commercial transaction of buying and selling of an organ or tissue. The driving force behind the decision of petitioner no.2 to donate one of her kidneys to petitioner no.1 clearly is her sense of love, affection and gratitude for petitioner no.1, and is not commercial gain.

64. The Supreme Court in *Kuldeep Singh* (supra) has observed that the Authorisation Committee should satisfy itself "that the real purpose of the donor authorizing removal of the organ is by reason of affection or attachment towards the recipient or for any other special reason". The special reason cannot encompass commercial elements. The Supreme Court also observed that several relevant factors, which the Authorisation Committee should examine are factors like relationship, if any, period of acquaintance, degree of association, reciprocity of feelings, gratitude and similar human factors and bonds.

65. In the present case, the parties had shown to the Authorisation Committee their long period of acquaintance and degree of association, as they are distantly related. They have both shown the reciprocity of feelings amongst themselves, inasmuch, as, petitioner no.2 had been residing, since the demise of her husband about 18 years ago, on and of, with petitioner no.1 and her family members, and was receiving support from petitioner no.1. Petitioner no.2 clearly expressed her gratitude for all that petitioner no.1 and her family members have done for her over the years, and states that she would like to help petitioner no.1/her Mousi in time of her need.

66. The videograph recorded on 02.03.2012, inter alia, contains the interview of petitioner No. 2 Smt. Israt, being the prospective donor. She produced two black & white photographs before the said Committee of the marriage of the younger sister of petitioner No. 1. These photographs have also been placed on record at pages 22, 23 & 24. The first photograph shows the bridegroom, being fed sweets by petitioner No. 2 as a part of marriage ritual and celebration. The second photograph, which is a group photograph, shows the petitioner No.1 sitting on the left side of the bridegroom. The bride, who starkly resembles petitioner No. 1 is seen sitting on the right side of the bridegroom, though at a lower level. However, the Committee, as it appears from the interviews, laid emphasis on the fact that both the petitioners do not appear in the "same photograph".

67. In the videograph recorded on 15.03.2012, which contains the interview of petitioner No. 1, this aspect is again highlighted. Petitioner No. 1 repeatedly explains that in their community they do not encourage taking of too many pictures. She also states that nobody could have foretold 30 years earlier, that they would be asked to produce a photograph wherein both of them are seen together.

68. One of the reasoning adopted by the Committee, while rejecting the case of the petitioners, is that "there is no substantial proof of association between donor and recipient". This finding of the Committee is premised, as aforesaid, on their observation made during the course of interview on 02.03.2012 & 15.03.2012 to the effect that the donor and the recipient are not seen in the same photograph.

69. With due respect to the members of the Committee the approach of the Committee in this regard is wholly misplaced.

70. The Authorisation Committee, while assessing the evidence produced in the form of old photographs showing the association between the donor and the recipient, has to act with pragmatism, and keeping in mind the ground realities. The two black and white photographs produced by the petitioners are of 30 years of vintage. They were taken during the wedding ceremony of the younger sister of petitioner no.1. The petitioner no.1 has stated during the course of her interview, and it is also well known even otherwise, that amongst the muslim community where women follow parda system, photographs are not frequently taken. What is absolutely clear from these photographs is that both the petitioners are closely related to the person getting married as shown in the photographs, since in one photograph petitioner no.2 is seen feeding sweets to the bridegroom as a part of marriage ceremony and in the other, petitioner no.1 is sitting next to the bridegroom in a group photograph. Their past acquaintance (if not relation), therefore, atleast is clearly established from these two photographs. As commented by petitioner no.1, they could not have foreseen that both the petitioners would require a common photograph 30 years later, for the purpose for which the Authorisation Committee was examining their case.

71. The petitioners have also produced another set of photographs taken in the year 2008 at the time of the wedding of the daughter of petitioner no.2. In the said photograph, both the petitioners are seen sitting on either side of the bride. Even this photograph is four years old. It was taken about three years before petitioner No. 1's need for kidney transplant arose.

72. At this stage, I consider it appropriate to take note of the observations made in para 14 by the Orissa High Court in Arup Kumar Das (supra), which reads as follows:

14. We also feel it essential to point out herein that the various objectives of TOHO Act, 1994 and the intention of the Parliament in enacting the present legislation appears to have not been properly understood by the statutory authorities who have been vested with the responsibility of enforcing the said Act. What must not be lost sight of is that, transplantation of human organs has not been prohibited but regulated in terms of the said statute. What has been prohibited under the statute is commercial dealings in human organs and prevention and exploitation of humans for financial benefits. The Authorisation Committee as well as the appellate body must endeavour to ensure that while

exploitation must be prevented and commercialization dealing in human organ is prohibited, yet bona fide applicants may not be viewed in a suspicious manner since the TOHO Act, 1994 itself permits not only the donors from within the family but also permits non-relative donors.

We are of the considered view that the TOHO Act, 1994 should not be interpreted in a manner which effectively amounts to prohibiting transplantation of human organs. In conclusion, we may state that the TOHO Act, 1994 is enacted by the Parliament for regulating transplantation of human organs and only prohibits commercial dealings in human organs.

(Emphasis supplied)

73. Unfortunately, the Authorisation Committee and the Appellate Authority do not appear to have heeded to the above advice of the Orissa High Court while deciding the present case. With regard to the approach required to be adopted by the Authorisation Committee, in such like cases, I may refer to the decision of the Orissa High Court in Manoranjan Rout (*supra*). In para 10 of the judgment, the Division Bench held that there was no material on record regarding any chance of commercial transaction between the donor and the recipient. There was no material placed on record to doubt the relationship between them. Consequently, the Court proceeded on the basis of affidavits and reports received from the relatives, sar panch and other authorities with regard to the relationship of the parties, and also the fact that there was no commercial transaction. In para 11, the Division Bench observed as follows:

11. In the present case, there is no material on record to disprove the relationship between the donor & the recipient. Therefore, the necessary approval cannot be denied on the ground of a mere suspicion. The question that the applicants have not produced relevant documents, establishing their relationship, as stated by the Committee, also does not arise when Mrs. Ramadei Singh, Sarpanch of Kuamara Grama Panchayat has certified the relationship between the donor & the recipient as per the Rules, 1995. After all, law is not cast in stone, nor is it that judicial interpretation remains unchanged over time

74. In Jaswinder Singh (*supra*), the Authorisation Committee had denied its approval of the proposed transplant of organ. The Division Bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court reversed that decision by holding that there was no material placed on record to arrive at the conclusion that there was involvement of money in the proposed donation. In para 8 of its decision, the Division Bench held as follows:

8. We have considered the rival contentions of the parties and have gone through the record of the case. The only reason as per Annexures P13 and P14 to refuse necessary approval to the petitioner and the proposed donor is the alleged involvement of money. However, there is no material placed on record to reach to this conclusion arrived at by the Committee, therefore, in our considered view, the aforesaid reason is totally extraneous specially in view of the fact that in

police verification, which is on record as Annexure P12, it has been made clear by the Senior Superintendent of Police, Sangrur that the kidney is being donated by the donor, without any fear and out of his own free will. Human conduct and reactions in this regard cannot be measured in any mathematical terms. It has already come on the record that the donor knows the recipient as they have visiting terms in the family and it is because of sheer love and affection and humanitarian considerations, the kidney is being donated by Manjit Singh. The necessary approval cannot be denied only on the ground of a mere suspicion that some money consideration is involved especially when there is no material on record to prove that fact.

75. Even if the submission of the respondents, that it was for the petitioners to establish the existence of past acquaintance/ relationship and the existence of love & affection between them, were to be accepted, in my view, the petitioners and their family members clearly discharged their onus in this regard. On the other hand, the Authorisation Committee does not appear to have found any material or evidence to doubt the case of the petitioners or disbelieve their statements.

76. The impugned order passed by the Authorisation Committee in the present case is a list drawn up by respondent no.2 with the title "Approval status of prospective patients for organ transplantation". It deals with 19 cases. The cases at sl. nos.1 to 8, 10, 12 and 13 have been "approved". I may note that no reasoning is recorded by the Authorisation Committee in respect of these approved cases, even though, statutorily they were obliged to do the same. Two cases were rejected, including that of the petitioners. The so-called reasons for rejection are, in fact, no "reasons", but mere conclusions or observations. There is no reasoning given by the Authorisation Committee for reaching the said conclusions, and making the said observations. The link between the materials examined by the Authorisation Committee and the conclusions/observations made by it, i.e. the "reasons", are completely missing. How the material available before it has been analysed or dealt with by the Authorisation Committee is not known. As aforesaid, the said observations/conclusions of the committee read as follows:

? There is no substantial proof of association between donor and recipient.

? Husband and close relatives not willing for donation.

? There is income disparity between donor and recipient.

77. Of the aforesaid, the second observation/conclusion is patently irrelevant, as already discussed above. In any event, even otherwise, it appears to me that there is sufficient explanation given by petitioner No. 1 and her family members for one of the near relatives not donating a kidney to petitioner No. 1.

78. It is not clear as to what the Authorisation Committee means when it says "there is no substantial proof of association between donor and recipient". What

is that the Authorisation Committee was looking for as "substantial proof of association", is not known. The petitioners produced their pedigree table; various reports from various authorities prepared after local examination at Meerut/U.P.; their old photographs, i.e. 30 years old and of the year 2008, and; lastly their own statements and statements of their relatives. These, in my view, were clearly enough to establish their case as genuine, particularly, when nothing to contradict the same was found by the Committee or the other authorities.

79. From the interviews conducted by the Authorisation Committee, it appears that none of the interviewers expressed any doubt or dissatisfaction with regard to the claim of the petitioners that they are related in the manner as claimed by them.

80. The mere existence of disparity in the income of the donor and the recipient by itself could not have been a reason to reject the petitioners case by raising a suspicion that there would necessarily be a commercial transaction in relation to the giving and taking of the kidney. As discussed above, the Authorisation Committee appears to have completely turned a blind eye to the reasons given by petitioner no.2 for her offering her one kidney to petitioner no.1. It also proceeds on the assumption that love and affection can only be shared with people having the same or similar financial standing. Such an assumption only needs to be stated to be rejected. The approach of the Authorisation Committee and the Appellate Authority clearly lacks the exercise of discretion judiciously and with pragmatism.

81. Reliance placed by Mr. Pushkarna on the decision of the Punjab and Haryana High Court in Poonam Gupta (supra), in my view, is of no avail. In that case, the donor and the recipient were not at all related, except that both the family claimed to know each other for the last 17 years. Moreover, in the form filled up by them, they had described themselves as "close relatives", which the Court felt was to mislead the authorities. The Court was also impressed by the fact that the donor was a young lady having two small children while her husband did not have a steady income, as he did not have a regular job. In that case, the Authorisation Committee and the appellate authority had given their reasoning for raising doubts on the claim of the proposed donation being actuated by love and affection between the donor and the recipient. It was in this background that the Court refused to interfere with the exercise of its discretion by the Authorisation Committee and the appellate authority. The same cannot be said about the case in hand.

82. The minutes of the meeting dated 24.04.2012 of the appellate authority tendered by Mr. Pushkarna does not in any way advance the respondents case. On the contrary, it shows that the order passed by the appellate authority is just as unreasoned and cryptic, as the one passed by the Authorisation Committee. The relevant extract from the said minutes read as follows:

The Committee examined all the documents submitted by the appellants, and

the documents and the video recordings provided by the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital and the circumstances of the case. The Appellate committee held detailed discussions and deliberations on this case.

The husband of petitioner no.1, Mr. Shameem Ahmad and Mr. Riyasat Hussain Khan, the husband of petitioner number 1's younger sister were called for personal hearing by the committee and were asked if they want to submit/produce any document(s) in support of their petition apart from what they had already submitted to the authorisation committee of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital. Their reply was "No".

The committee agrees with the decision taken by the Authorisation Committee of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in this case and thus the aforesaid appeal is rejected

83. In the light of the aforesaid facts, circumstances, discussion and the law, in my view, the impugned decision of the Authorisation Committee as well as the appellate authority are wholly unsustainable and, accordingly, they are quashed. The question is, at this stage, what should be the approach of the Court - whether the matter should be remanded back to the Authorisation Committee or the appellate authority for reconsideration, or whether the Court would be justified in directing the Authorisation Committee to grant its approval without any further examination of the matter by it.

84. The Supreme Court in Comptroller and Auditor General of India Gian Prakash, New Delhi (supra) held in para 20 that in an appropriate case, in order to prevent injustice resulting to the concerned parties, the Court may itself pass an order or give directions which the Government or a public authority should have passed or exercised its discretion at a proper level.

85. In the present case, the petitioner no.1 has been in need of a kidney replacement since June 2011. The joint application for seeking the approval of the Authorisation Committee was submitted by the petitioners in August 2011. Over this period of time, the condition of the petitioner no.1 has only deteriorated and she requires dialysis thrice a week. Even from the interviews of petitioner no.1 conducted on different dates, her deteriorating condition of her health is evident.

86. Considering these facts and circumstances, and the urgency of the matter, I am inclined to require the Authorisation Committee to forthwith grant its approval to the case of the petitioners for donation of one kidney by petitioner no.2 to petitioner no.1 in terms of their application. The formal approval should be granted within two days, failing which it shall be deemed that the said formal approval stands granted.

87. Upon the grant of the said formal approval/deemed formal approval, the petitioners shall be entitled to undergo the required medical procedures and operation for the purpose of carrying out the transplantation, as aforesaid. Petition stands disposed of in the aforesaid terms. Parties are left to bear their

respective costs.

Dasti under the signatures of the Court Master.