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Unnao rape case convict UP MLA to spend remainder of life in jail

Court directs Sengar to pay Rs 25 lakh as fine; 10 lakh to go to survivor's family

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NEW DELHI, DHNS

Expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar was on Friday sentenced to "imprisonment till remainder of his biological life" by a Delhi court, four days after being held guilty of kidnapping and raping a minor girl in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao district in 2017.

District and sessions judge Dharmesh Sharma also imposed a fine of Rs 25 lakh on the Uttar Pradesh legislator, who stood disqualified upon his conviction, as per the Representation of People Act. The court directed him to pay an additional sum of Rs 10 lakh as ex-gratia to the victim.

Out of Rs 25 lakh fine, a sum of Rs 15 lakh would be paid to the Uttar Pradesh government

towards defraying of expenses incurred during his prosecution, the court said.

Compensation

The court also directed the UP government to pay Rs 15,000 per month for the rented accommodation to the survivor and her family, for a period of one year. The accommodation was arranged by the social workers connected to the Delhi Commission for Women.

It also ordered the CBI to ensure that the survivor and her family members would remain secure with changed identities if desired by them.

In arguments on sentence,

Sengar's lawyer contended he was sole bread winner in the family. It was also pointed out that he had a family, including daughters, to care for. The prosecution, for its part, sought imposition of maximum penalty upon him.

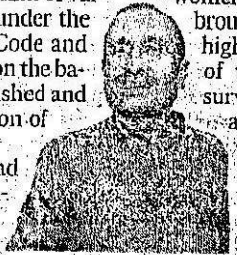
On December 16, the court had convicted him of various offences under the Indian Penal Code and the PoCSO Act on the basis of "unblemished and truthful" version of the survivor.

The court had also said the investigation in the case by the

CBI has not been fair, as it repeatedly called the survivor to its office and delayed for over a year, before filing the charge sheet.

Embarrassment for BJP

"The instant case manifests the multitudes of restrictions and taboos within which many women in the rural areas are brought up," judge had said, highlighting background of the case where the survivor raised her voice against a powerful local politician.



The case has caused a big embarrassment for the BJP government as the

survivor, who hailed from village of the accused MLA in Unnao, was left critically injured and two of her aunts had died in a suspicious road accident at Rae Bareilly, July. The trial was shifted to the Delhi court on an order by the Supreme Court.

The survivor's father had also died during the judicial custody after his arrest in a separate case.

The case did not get any attention from Uttar Pradesh police until the victim tried to set herself on fire last year.

Sengar, 53, a four-time MLA from UP's Bangermau, was expelled from the party in August 2019.