

[2023 LiveLaw \(SC\) 463](#)

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
HRISHIKESH ROY; J., MANOJ MISRA; J.

Special Leave to Appeal (Crl.) No(s). 4693/2023; 15-05-2023

PRAVINSINH NRUPATSINH CHAUHAN versus STATE OF GUJARAT

Criminal Investigation – Voice Sample - Magistrate has the power to order the collection of a voice sample for the purpose of investigation.

(Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 23-12-2022 in CRRA No. 157/2021 passed by the High Court of Gujarat at Ahmedabad)

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Shamik Shirishbhai Sanjanwala, AOR Mr. Tejas Barot, Adv. (V.C.)

ORDER

Heard Mr. Tejas Barot, learned counsel appearing for the petitioner. The primary grievance of the petitioner is that his voice sample is ordered to be collected for the purpose of comparison with the incriminatory voice sample available with the police. According to the counsel, unless rules are framed and appropriate standard operating system is notified under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022 read with the Rules 2022, the collection of voice sample would impeach on the right of privacy of the accused.

2. In the above context, we have the benefit of reading the ratio in '**Ritesh Sinha Vs. State of Uttar Pradesh**' reported in **(2019) 8 SCC 1** where in the context of voice sample collected for the purpose of investigation, the three Judges Bench of this Court had held:-

"26. Would a judicial order compelling a person to give a sample of his voice violate the fundamental right to privacy under Article 20(3) of the Constitution, is the next question. The issue is interesting and debatable but not having been argued before us it will suffice to note that in view of the opinion rendered by this Court in *Modern Dental College and Research Centre v. State of M.P.*, *Gobind v. State of M. P.* and another and the nine Judge's Bench of this Court in *K.S. Puttaswamy (Privacy 9) v. Union of India* the fundamental right to privacy cannot be construed as absolute and but must bow down to compelling public interest. We refrain from any further discussion and consider it appropriate not to record any further observation on an issue not specifically raised before us.

27. In the light of the above discussions, we unhesitatingly take the view that until explicit provisions are engrafted in the Code of Criminal Procedure by Parliament, a Judicial Magistrate must be conceded the power to order a person to give a sample of his voice for the purpose of investigation of a crime. Such power has to be conferred on a Magistrate by a process of judicial interpretation and in exercise of jurisdiction vested in this Court under Article 142 of the Constitution of India. We order accordingly and consequently dispose the appeals in terms of the above."

3. The above would indicate that the Magistrate is given the power to order for collection of voice sample for the purpose of investigation of a crime until explicit provisions are engrafted in the CrPC by the Parliament. Such direction was issued by invoking powers under Article 142 of the Constitution of India.

4. Supported by the above ratio, we see no infirmity with the impugned judgment of the High Court as also of the Special Court ordering the accused to give his voice sample to facilitate investigation of the crime.

5. The special leave petition accordingly, stands dismissed. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.