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EC rejects plea to release Maya Tyagi case accused

Rajiv Ranjan Jha, TNN Jan 22, 2002, 11.33pm IST

Lucknow: the election commission has turned down the request of the uttar pradesh government to give clemency to the main accused of the infamous maya tyagi case of 1978. the government wanted to condone the punishment of shiv kumar gupta on humanitarian grounds.

However, the ec has said a firm no to the pleas of the state government. in view of the enforcement of the mode code of conduct, the government needed permission of the election commission for going ahead with its plan. gupta is undergoing life imprisonment in a state prison.

It may be recalled that while on her way back home maya tyagi had landed herself in the police hands when the ambassador car carrying her and her husband developed mechanical defects near meerut. maya tyagi's husband had then moved out in search of a mechanic.

Finding a woman alone a couple of policemen on duty dragged maya tyagi to a nearby police station. in the meantime, when her husband returned to the scene he was shot dead from a close range by a policeman present there.

The policemen kept maya tyagi for three days in the lock up where she was sexually assaulted by dozens of policemen posted there. they also threw chilly powder on her body and later took around the town stark naked.

The police brutality perpetrated on the hapless woman caused an uproar and there was a cry for the scalp of the culprits. the incident, when raised by senior congress member bhagwat jha azad in parliament, stunned the members. there was unanimous condemnation of the incident.

Eventually, the law courts stepped in and sub-inspector shiv kumar gupta was given the capital punishment which was later reduced to life-imprisonment.