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"15. ... "Soon before" is a relative term which is required to be considered under specific circumstances of each case and no straitjacket formula can be laid down by fixing any time-limit. ... **In relation to dowry deaths, the circumstances showing the existence of cruelty or harassment to the deceased are not restricted to a particular instance but normally refer to a course of conduct. Such conduct may be spread over a period of time. Proximate and live link between the effect of cruelty based on dowry demand and the consequential death is required to be proved by the prosecution. The demand of dowry, cruelty or harassment based upon such demand and the date of death should not be too remote in time which, under the circumstances, be treated as having become stale enough.**"

(emphasis supplied)

Kans Raj v. State of Punjab, (2000) 5 SCC 207,

A similar view was taken in *Rajinder Singh v. State of Punjab, (2015) 6 SCC 477.*

Tags: [IPC 304-B](#), [Soon before \(304-B IPC\)](#)