



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH AT AMARAVATI

TUESDAY, THE TENTH DAY OF DECEMBER,

TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY FOUR

:PRESENT:

THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE SRI DHIRAJ SINGH THAKUR

AND

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE RAVI CHEEMALAPATI

WP(PIL) NO: 233 OF 2017

Between:

Vinodh Palamangalam, S/o. P. Ravi, aged 20 years, Present Address :
Room No. 9, Mamatha Block, AU Law Hostel, Old CBI, Visakahapatnam -
530003. Permanent Address : Door No. 7-35, Kothapeta, Srikalahasthi,
Chittoor District - 517664 By letter Dated : 19/08/2017 Mobile No.
7799258343

...Petitioner

AND

1. The Union of India, represented by its Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, New Delhi
2. The Union of India, represented by its Secretary, Ministry of Railways, New Delhi
3. The State of Telangana, rep. by Chief Secretary, Secretariat Buildings, Hyderabad.
4. The state of Andhra Pradesh, rep. by its Chief Secretary, Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravathi, Guntur District.
5. The State of Telangana, rep. by its Prl. Secretary, Revenue Department, Secretariat Building, Hyderabad.
6. The State of Andhra Pradesh, rep. by its Prl. Secretary, Revenue Department, Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravathi, Guntur District.

7. The State of Telangana, rep. by its Prl. Secretary, Endowment Department, Secretariat Building, Hyderabad.
 8. The State of Andhra Pradesh, rep. by its Prl. Secretary, Endowment Department, Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravathi, Guntur District.
 9. The TSRTC, Rep. by its Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Hyderabad.
 10. The APSRTC, Rep. by its Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Guntur, Guntur District.
 11. The State of Telangana, rep. by its Prl. Secretary, Women Development & Child Welfare Department, Secretariat, Hyderabad.
 12. The State of Andhra Pradesh, rep. by its Prl. Secretary, Women Development & Child Welfare Department, Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravathi, Guntur District
 13. Airports Authority of India, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi -110003.
- (Respondent No.13 was incorporated as per c.o.dt.10.12.2024 in WP(PIL).No.233 of 2017)

...Respondents

Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India is filed praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed therewith, the High Court may be pleased to issue a Writ or direction more particularly one in the nature of Writ of Mandamus to arrange/provide exclusive and adequate breast feeding rooms to protect Women's right to privacy, dignity and personal liberty in public places for mothers to feed their infants in public places; as interpreted by Supreme Court of India under Article 21 of Constitution of India has added Right to Privacy, personal dignity and nutrition within its purview, as the Governments are not providing proper arrangements for feeding their infants; and consequently direct the respondents to arrange exclusive breast feeding, rooms to mothers to feed

their infants in public places like Bus Stations, Railway Stations, Temples etc. in view of protection of women's right to privacy, dignity and personal liberty, in public places;

The petition coming on for hearing, upon perusing the Petition and the affidavit filed in support thereof and upon hearing the arguments of through the LETTER of the Petitioner and Sri Pasala Ponna Rao, Deputy Solicitor General for the Respondent No.13, the Court made the following;
ORDER:

“The present PIL has been filed highlighting the issue with regard to lack of spaces for feeding of infants by women, which affect their right to privacy and dignity. The petitioner, therefore, seeks exclusive and adequate breast feeding rooms for lactating mothers in public places like bus stations, railway stations and temples.

Affidavit has been filed in June, 2022 on behalf of respondent No.10 - APSRTC, Vijayawada, whereby it is stated that APSRTC has identified 25 places and accorded approval to take up construction of baby feeding centers at Vijayawada, Guntur and Tirupathi, and that the works in regard to the said centers are in progress.

We direct respondent No.10 to file fresh status report with regard to the status of the said centers, which were proposed and in regard to the works which were undertaken at Vijayawada, Guntur and Tirupathi and inform the Court as to whether the centers at these three places are functional or not.

We further direct respondent No.10 to reflect in the status report as to what action it has undertaken to open such centers in other places as well wherever the bus shelters are being operated and controlled by the APSRTC. The affidavit be filed in four weeks.

An affidavit has already been filed on behalf of respondent No.12, by the Deputy Secretary to Government, Women Development

and Child Welfare Department wherein it has been stated that communications have already been addressed to the Departments of Endowments, Railways and APSRTC to take necessary measures to provide breastfeeding centers in their respective stations.

Latest status report be filed by the concerned officer in this regard as to the status of such centers.

We direct respondent No.2 to file an affidavit reflecting the steps taken for providing for such a facility in all the Railway stations in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Respondent No.8 i.e., the Principal Secretary, Endowments Department is also directed to file a status report with regard to the steps taken for providing such centers in the temple premises, which are under their control or authority.

Although the orders cover Railways, temple premises and bus stations, the Airports have not been brought within the purview of the present PIL. Therefore, we direct that the Airports Authority of India, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi-110003, represented by the Chairman, be also incorporated as party respondent and shall figure as respondent No.13 in the present petition.

Mr. Pasala Punna Rao, learned Deputy Solicitor General, waives service of notice on behalf of newly added respondent No.13, who shall file a detailed affidavit as to whether any provision has been made for such a facility in the airports in the state of Andhra Pradesh and if not, what steps would be taken and the timelines within which such a facility would be made available.

Mrs. S. Pranathi, learned Special Government Pleader for the State submits that such a provision should also be made available in large commercial complexes and shopping malls, which are

frequented in large numbers by women with new born babies and that appropriate provisions should also be directed to be made in such malls.

In our opinion, it is for the concerned authorities, who grant building permissions, to envisage such modification in their rules and regulations, which would make incumbent upon such applicants, who wish to develop malls and large shopping areas to ensure that such a facility is also made available in those spaces. The authorities to consider taking appropriate steps for modifying the existing rules to provide for such spaces in such buildings, which are proposed to be constructed or already existing commercial spaces or shopping malls.

List on 08.01.2025.”

//TRUE COPY//

FoI

SD/-K.TATA RAO
DEPUTY REGISTRAR
SECTION OFFICER

To,

1. The Secretary, Union of India, Ministry of Women and Child Development, New Delhi
2. The Secretary, Union of India, Ministry of Railways, New Delhi
3. The Chief Secretary, State of Telangana, Secretariat Buildings, Hyderabad.
4. The Chief Secretary, State of Andhra Pradesh, Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravathi, Guntur District.
5. The Prl. Secretary, State of Telangana, Revenue Department, Secretariat Building, Hyderabad.
6. The Prl. Secretary, State of Andhra Pradesh, Revenue Department, Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravathi, Guntur District.

7. The Prl. Secretary, State of Telangana, Endowment Department, Secretariat Building, Hyderabad.
8. The Prl. Secretary, State of Andhra Pradesh, Endowment Department, Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravathi, Guntur District.
9. The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, TSRTC, Hyderabad.
10. The Chairman-cum-Managing Director, APSRTC, Guntur, Guntur District.
11. The Prl. Secretary, State of Telangana, Women Development & Child Welfare Department, Secretariat, Hyderabad.
12. The Prl. Secretary, State of Andhra Pradesh, Women Development & Child Welfare Department, Secretariat, Velagapudi, Amaravathi, Guntur District
13. Airports Authority of India, Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi -110003. (Addressee Nos.1 to 13 by **SPEED POST**)
14. Two CCs to GP for Revenue, High Court of Andhra Pradesh. [OUT]
15. One CC to Sri. Pasala Ponna Rao, Deputy Solicitor General [OPUC]
16. Two CCs to GP for Women Dev Child Welfare(TG), High Court of Andhra Pradesh. [OUT]
17. Two CCs to GP for General Administration (AP), High Court of Andhra Pradesh. [OUT]
18. Two CCs to GP for Endowments (TG), High Court of Andhra Pradesh. [OUT]
19. Two CCs to GP for Endowments (AP), High Court of Andhra Pradesh. [OUT]
20. Two CCs to GP for Revenue (TG), High Court of Andhra Pradesh. [OUT]

21. One CC to Sri. P.Durga Prasad, SC FOR APSRTC Advocate [OPUC]
22. Two CCs to GP for Women Dev Child Welfare, High Court of Andhra Pradesh. [OUT]
23. Two CCs to GP for General Administration (TG), High Court of Andhra Pradesh. [OUT]
24. One CC to The Advocate General (TG) [OPUC]
25. Two spare copies

MM

HIGH COURT

HC,J

&

RC,J

DATED:10/12/2024

LIST ON 08.01.2025

ORDER

WP(PIL).No.233 of 2017

DIRECTION

