



**HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR**

**WPPIL No. 2 of 2026**

In The Matter Of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation Based On News Item Published In Daily News Paper Bilaspur Bhaskar Dainik Bhaskar, Bilaspur Dated 16 January 2026, Namely, Afsaro Ki Laparwahi Se 5 Saal Me Nahi Ban Saka Naya Fire Station, Kai Badi Ghatnao Ke Bad Bhi Jameen Aur Tendor Ke Fer Me Surksha Ki Andekhi.

**... Petitioner(s)**

**versus**

- 1 - State Of Chhattisgarh Through Chief Secretary, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur C.G.
- 2 - Principal Secretary, Public Works Department, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur C.G.
- 3 - Engineer-In-Chief, Public Works Department, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur C.G.
- 4 - Collector Bilaspur District Bilaspur C.G.
- 5 - Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur, District Bilaspur C.G.
- 6 - Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Bilaspur, District Bilaspur C.G.
- 7 - Superintending Engineer, Bilaspur Circle Public Works Department, Bilaspur C.G.

**... Respondent(s)**

**Order Sheet**

<b>16/01/2026</b>	<p>This is an office reference.</p> <p>The present public interest litigation has been registered on suo moto cognizance taken by this Court on the basis of news item published in Bilaspur Bhaskar dated 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2026. The news item is as follows:-</p> <p>“अफसरों की लापरवाही से 5 साल में नहीं बन सका नया फायर स्टेशन” “कई बड़ी घटनाओं के बाद भी जमीन और टेंडर के फेर में सुरक्षा की अनदेखी”</p> <p>It has been published in Bilaspur Bhaskar dated 16.01.2025 that despite the increasing incidents of fire in a city with a population of 7.5 lakh, officials remain indifferent. The well-equipped fire station that was to be constructed by the Public Works Department (PWD) has been delayed for the past five years due to land disputes, technical issues, and repeated tendering processes. The situation is such that even after five years, a work order has not been issued, and once again the tender process is underway.</p> <p>At present, a temporary fire station is operating near the Kududand water tank, but it has proved inadequate</p>
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from the city's safety perspective. The station lacks sufficient staff as well as modern equipment. Due to outdated vehicles and insufficient water storage, effective rescue operations are not possible during any major emergency. Considering the city's population, this fire station should have been completed five years ago, but negligence by the Public Works Department and administrative officials prevented this from happening. The lack of coordination among officials has further aggravated the problem.

The new fire station is proposed to be constructed at a revised administrative approval cost of ₹1.58 crore. As per rules, after the first tender was issued, a checklist was required to be sent from the Executive Engineer's office to the Superintending Engineer's office on time, but this was not done. Due to poor coordination, the entire process was cancelled and the tender had to be reissued. In this matter, Superintending Engineer K.P. Sant cited procedural rules, while Executive Engineer C.S. Vindhayaraj declined to comment.

It has been further published that construction work

at the proposed site is challenging due to garbage dumping and the marshy nature of the land. Under the new plan, officials will first have to excavate eight feet and then carry out an additional seven feet of excavation for the foundation. If the station is constructed, the city will receive high-tech facilities and it will be possible to bring fire incidents under control immediately.

It has also been published that the new fire station was approved in 2020, but nearly two and a half years were wasted in selecting the land. After considering Sakri Road, Circuit House, and Koni, the site was finally finalized at Kududand. Since the land there is marshy, the Public Works Department sent a revised estimate for construction using raft foundation technology, which took two years to get approved. However, even after the estimate was approved, the Superintending Engineer cancelled it due to non-compliance with rules. The tender for the fire station has been reissued. The earlier tender was cancelled because the prescribed tendering procedure was not followed.

Heard Mr.Vivek Sharma, learned Advocate General

assisted by Mr. Shashank Thakur, learned Deputy Advocate General appearing for respondents No.1 to 4 and 6 & 7 and Mr. Anadi Sharma, learned counsel appearing for respondent No.5.

Taking into consideration the facts of the case, the Director General, Home Guards, Civil Defence & Emergency Services and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), PHQ, Raipur shall be impleaded as a party respondent in the present Public Interest Litigation (PIL).

The Director General, Home Guards, Civil Defence & Emergency Services and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), PHQ, Raipur is directed to inform this Court about the number of existing fire stations in the State, district-wise, along with their present status, and also to specify the total number of fire brigades available in the State.

Learned Advocate General has informed this Court that the tender for construction of new fire stations has been floated three times earlier. It has further been submitted that an e-Procurement Tender Notice dated 12.01.2026 has been issued and that 27.01.2026 is the

scheduled date for opening of bids.

An affidavit shall be filed by the Director General, Home Guards, Civil Defence & Emergency Services and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), PHQ, Raipur, placing on record the information and details as queried by this Court.

Mr. Sudiep Shrivastava, Advocate, present in the Court is appointed as Amicus Curiae.

Registry is directed to publish the name of Mr.Sudiep Shrivastava as Amicus Curiae in the present PIL.

Let the matter be listed again on **5<sup>th</sup> February, 2026**.

Sd/-  
**(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)**  
**Judge**

Sd/-  
**(Ramesh Sinha)**  
**Chief Justice**