



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPPIL No. 2 of 2026

IN THE MATTER OF SUO MOTO PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION

versus

STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

Order Sheet

05.02.2026	This is an office reference. Heard Mr. Sudiep Shrivastava, learned counsel appointed as Amicus Curiae. Also heard Mr. Prasun Kumar Bhaduri, learned Deputy Advocate General, appearing for the State/respondent No.1 to 4, 6 & 7 as well as Mr. Anadi Sharma, learned counsel appearing for respondent No.5. In compliance of the Court's order dated 16.01.2026, the Director General, Home Guards, Civil Defence & Emergency Services and State Disaster

Response Force (SDRF), PHQ, Raipur, has filed his personal affidavit, relevant portion of which reads as follows :-

4. That, the Hon'ble Court in its order dated 16/01/2026, has observed that 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 16th January, 2026. The news item is as follows:- "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" 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. At present, a temporary fire station is operating near the Kududand water tank, but it has

proved inadequate from the city's safety perspective. The station lacks sufficient staff as well 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 Due to outdated vehicles and insufficient water storage, effective rescue operations are not possible during any major emergency.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. Vindhyaraj declined to comment. It has been further published that construction work 4 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. 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. It has also been informed the 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.

5. That, in terms of the pointed query made by the Hon'ble Court asking specific affidavit regarding 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, the present affidavit is being filed.

6. It is respectfully submitted that at present, fully constructed fire stations are operating in 9 places Durg, Nava Raipur, Ambikapur, Jagdalpur, Janjgir Champa, Korba, Raigarh, Rajnandgaon and Kabirdham respectively, out of which A category stations are working in Durg and Nava Raipur and rest of the fire stations are of B category.

7. That, a fire station is under construction at Urla Siltara. Tender process has been floated for fire Stations at Jashpur, Mahasamund, Korea, Dantewada, Kanker, Balodabazar and Dhamtari. The Fire Stations are to be constructed in the cities of Raipur, Bilaspur, Narayanpur, Gaurela Pendra Marwahi, Sukma, Khairagarh Chhuikhadan Gandai, Manendragarh Chirmiri Bharatpur, Mohla Manpur Ambagarh Chowki, Sarangarh, Kondagaon, Balrampur, Balod, Surajpur, Gariyaband, Bijapur, Sakti, Mungeli and Bemetara respectively. A copy of the Fires Station details is attached with as Document – A.

8. It is submitted that the fire tenders have been provided across the State by the

Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Municipal Authorities and also at some places by the concerned District Magistrates.

9. It is submitted that in so far as the district-wise availability of fire tenders is concerned, for Raipur the fire tender has been made available by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Municipal Authorities and the District Magistrate. A total of 22 Fire tenders are available for Raipur District and at Block Abhanpur and Navapara, one fire tender each is available.

10. It is respectfully submitted that for Durg District, total 10 fire tenders are available and one fire tender is available for Patan Block.

11. It is respectfully submitted that for Kabirdham District, total 5 fire tenders are available and one each is available in its block Lohara, Pandaria, Bodla and Pandatari.

12. It is respectfully submitted that for Bemetara District, total 3 fire tenders are available and at block levels, 6 fire tenders are available for Maro, Berla, Saja, Parpodi, Khamharia, Nawagarh,

13. It is respectfully submitted that for Dhamtari District, total 4 fire tenders are available and at block levels, one each tender

is available for Nagri and Kurud.

14. It is respectfully submitted that for Gariyaband District, total 3 fire tenders are available and at block levels, one tender is available for Rajim.

15. It is respectfully submitted that for Mahasamund District, total 3 fire tenders are available and at block levels, one each tender is available for Bagbahra, Pithora and Saraipali.

16. It is respectfully submitted that for Balod District, total 5 fire tenders are available. It is respectfully submitted that for Balodabazar District, total 5 fire tenders are available (one fire tender is damaged due to fire in the rioting that took place at the district headquarter) and at block levels, one each tender is available for Bhatapara, Kasdol and Simga.

17. It is respectfully submitted that for Rajnandgaon District, total 4 fire tenders are available and at block levels, one each tender is available for Dongargarh and Dongargaon.

18. It is respectfully submitted that for Khairgarh Chhuikhadan Gandai District, total 2 fire tenders are available. It is respectfully submitted that for Manpur Mohla Ambagarh Chowki District, total 2 fire tenders are

available.

19. It is respectfully submitted that for Bilaspur District, total 10 fire tenders are available and at block levels, one each tender is available for Ratanpur, Kota, Malhar, Bodri.

20. It is respectfully submitted that for Raigarh District, total 4 fire tenders are available. It is respectfully submitted that for Korba District, total 6 fire tenders are available and at block levels, one each tender is available for Katghora and Dipka.

21. It is respectfully submitted that for Janjgir Champa District, total 3 fire tenders are available and at block levels, one each tender is available for Akaltara, Baloda and Sakti.

22. It is respectfully submitted that for Mungeli District, total 5 fire tenders are available and at block levels, one each tender is available for Lormi and Patharia.

23. It is respectfully submitted that for Gaurela Pendra Marwahi District, total 1 fire tender is available. It is respectfully submitted that for Sarangarh Bilaigarh District, total 1 fire tender is available.

24. It is respectfully submitted that for Surguja (Ambikapur) District, total 8 fire tenders are

available. It is respectfully submitted that for Jashpur District, total 4 fire tenders are available and at block levels, one each tender is available for Patthalgaon, Kunkuri and Bagicha.

25. It is respectfully submitted that for Balrampur Ramanujganj District, total 3 fire tenders are available and at block levels, one each tender is available for Wadrafnagar and Ramanujganj.

26. It is respectfully submitted that for Surajpur District, total 4 fire tenders are available and for Korea District, total 2 fire tenders are available and at block levels, one tender is available for Charcha.

27. It is respectfully submitted that for Manendragarh Chirmiri Bharatpur District, total 2 fire tenders are available and at block levels, one each tender is available for Manendragarh and Ramanujganj.

28. It is respectfully submitted that for Jagdalpur (Bastar) District, total 7 fire tenders are available and for Dantewada District, total 3 fire tenders are available and at block levels, one each tender is available for Kirandul and Bacheli (however, not operational).

29. It is respectfully submitted that for Kanker

	<i>District, total 4 fire tenders are available and at block levels, one each tender is available for Bhanupratappur.</i> <i>30. It is respectfully submitted that for Kondagaon District, total 3 fire tenders are available and for Bijapur District, total 2 fire tenders are available (including one at block level).</i> <i>31. It is respectfully submitted that for Sukma District, total 3 fire tenders are available and for Narayanpur District, total 4 fire tenders are available.</i> <i>32. It is respectfully submitted that a total number of fire tenders provided by the Department of Fire and Emergency is 76, total number of fire tenders provided by the Municipal Authorities is 39 and total number of fire tenders provided by the District Magistrates is 31. Thus, as on date, total 145 fire tenders are working in the State at district levels.</i> <i>33. It is respectfully submitted that for the block levels, in blocks of 23 districts, total 55 fire tenders are working. The said information has been provided by way of letter dated 21/01/2026 issued by the Director, Training Operations, Department of Fire and</i>
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Emergency Services. Copy of letter dated 21/01/2026 with district-wise information of fire tenders (January, 2026), fire tenders available with the Department of Fire and Emergency and fire tenders available at block levels are collectively attached herewith as Document B (Colly).

34. It is respectfully submitted that for the purposes of Bilaspur, regarding which the news item was that setting up of a fire station is long delayed. It is submitted that the Department of Public Works has sanctioned Rs. 155.96 lakhs for construction of fire stations office, fire tender parking, water tanks, washing ramps and hose tower. To this effect, a letter dated 28/01/2026 has been issued by Superintending Engineer, authorizing the Executive Engineer to complete the necessary formalities to commence the work which has been awarded to one Suyash Verma (CGeR11284) B Category Contractor. Copy of the letter dated 28/01/2026 is annexed herewith as Document – C.

35. It is respectfully submitted that on 29/01/2026 the Contractor Suyash Verma has been asked to get the agreement executed as soon as possible within a period of 15 days

failing which his earnest money shall be forfeited. Copy of the letter dated 29/01/2026 is attached herewith as Document – D.

36. It is respectfully submitted that accordingly, vide memo no. 648/SAC/T0083/SAC/2025-2026/Bilaspur dated 02/02/2026, the work order has been issued by way of agreement no. 77/2025-26. Copy of the memo no. 648/SAC/T0083/SAC/2025-2026/Bilaspur dated 02/02/2026 is attached herewith as Document – E.

37. That, the deponent respectfully submits that he has the highest regards and great respect to the lawful authority of this Hon'ble Court as well as the orders and directions issued from time to time and is duty bound to abide by and adhere to the orders of this Hon'ble Court.”

From a comprehensive perusal of the affidavit filed by the Director General, Home Guards, Civil Defence & Emergency Services and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), PHQ, Raipur, along with the documents annexed therewith, it clearly transpires that the directions issued by this Court have been substantially complied with. Detailed and district-wise

information regarding the number, category and operational status of fire stations, as well as the availability of fire tenders at district and block levels throughout the State, has been placed on record. The affidavit further reveals that concrete administrative, financial and contractual measures have been undertaken to address the long-pending issue of establishment of a fire station at Bilaspur, which was the genesis of the present suo motu proceedings, including sanction of requisite funds, completion of tender formalities and issuance of work order in favour of the successful contractor.

The materials placed on record, prima facie, indicate that the State authorities have taken cognizance of the concerns highlighted in the newspaper report and have initiated affirmative steps towards strengthening fire and emergency services infrastructure in the State, particularly in urban areas with increasing population and fire-related risks. However, the actual progress and timely completion of

the construction work and augmentation of fire safety infrastructure shall require continued monitoring by this Court.

Learned Amicus Curiae has drawn the attention of this Court to the provisions of the Chhattisgarh Fire and Emergency Service Act, 2018 (No.19 of 2018). He is permitted to place the same on record by way of an affidavit.

Two weeks' time is granted to the learned Amicus Curiae to file the said affidavit.

List the matter again on 17.03.2026.

In the meantime, learned State counsel as well as learned counsel appearing for respondent No.5 are directed to verify the said Act and file their respective reply-affidavits in this regard.

Sd/-
(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)
Judge

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice