



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPIL No. 19 of 2025

In The Matter Of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation

Versus

The State Of Chhattisgarh & Others

Order Sheet

21/07/2025	Heard Mr. Prafull N Bharat, Advocate General assisted by Mr. Y.S.Thakur, Additional Advocate General and Mr. Shashank Thakur, learned Deputy Advocate General for the State/respondents No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 as well as Mr. Ashish Tiwari, learned counsel for the respondent No. 6. Pursuant to the order dated 02.04.2025, the District Excise Officer, Bilaspur has filed its affidavit, the relevant portion of which reads as under: <i>“5. That, it is most respectfully submitted that the office of the Excise Commissioner vide letter dated 20.03.2025, addressed to all the Collectors in the State of Chhattisgarh, made a request to submit the proposal with respect to the Ahatas (Compound)</i>

associated with the liquor shop in their respective districts so that, the same may be auctioned as per the Ahata Policy of the Department of Excise. The copy of the letter dated 20.03.2025 is being filed herewith as ANNEXUER A/1.

6. That, it is submitted that in compliance of the letter date 20.03.2025, the office of the Assistant Commissioner, District Bilaspur sent the relevant information with respect to the Ahatas associated with countrymade and IMFL liquor shops in the district Bilaspur in the prescribed format vide letter dated 22.03.2025, and the name of the Sirgitti Ahata is not included in the said list and the same can be very well verified from the list appended with the letter date 22.03.2025. A copy of letter dated 22.03.2025, along with the list of the proposed Ahatas which were to be auctioned in the District Bilaspur is being filed herewith BS ANNEXUER A/2.

7. That, it is further submitted that after receiving the list of Ahatas to be auctioned from the entire State of Chhattisgarh the office of the Excise Commissioner issued an advertisement on 28.03.2025, for issuance of licence of Ahatas on the basis of online tendering for the year, 2025-26 and the list of proposed Ahatas (Compound) district wise for the entire State of Chhattisgarh was also published. The copy of the relevant pages of the advertisement dated 28.03.2025 along with the list of proposed Ahatas (Compound) in the district

Bilaspur is being filed herewith as ANNEXURE A/3.

8. That, it is most respectfully submitted that the department has taken a decision not to continue with the Ahatas (Compound) situated in the country/IMFL liquor shop, Sirgitti, District Bilaspur and hence the same has not been auctioned this year.”

This matter has been listed today as this Court has come across two news reports, one published in Hindi Daily, Haribhoomi, Bilaspur Edition on 20.07.2025 with a heading “शराब लेकर सडक किनारे पीने वालों से रहवासी परेशान, बंद करने की मांग, अशोक नगर शराब दुकान का मामला” and another news report published in English Daily, The Hitvad on 21.07.2025 with a heading “**Women protest liquor trade, demand action**” which relates to Patthalgaon, District Jashpur.

The first news report states that the people of the Ashok Nagar, District Bilaspur, have made a complaint to the Collector, Bilaspur with respect to the liquor shop situated on Birkona Road. The people buy liquor and consume the same on the roads openly which is causing nuisance every day. A school and a residential colony is also situated near the said liquor shop.

The second news item which is of Patthalgaon, District Jashpur, states that the people are tired of living in fear and

frustration because of illegal liquor trade in the localities of Puranibasti, Bilaitanagar and nearby areas. The women marched to the house of the Station House Officer, who lives in the Housing Board Colony and demanded strict action. The women of the locality are very much disturbed by the fact that the young people of the area are becoming addicted and they are selling household items to buy alcohol and often quarrel with the family members.

On a query being made with respect to the first news item, learned Advocate General submits that the liquor shop was being run within the norms prescribed by the State Government and was at a safe distance from the school and that the school had opened after the opening of the liquor shop. He, however, assures this Court that he would personally look into matter.

At this stage, this Court deems it appropriate to direct the Secretary, Excise, Government of Chhattisgarh, to file an affidavit with respect to the above news items.

Mr. Bharat submits that at present, the Secretary, Excise Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, is not available and as such, he prays that the State may be permitted to file the above affidavit through any other officer,

who is in charge of the said Secretary.

It is ordered accordingly.

Let this matter be listed on **05.08.2025** for further monitoring.

Sd/-
(Bibhu Datta Guru)
JUDGE

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
CHIEF JUSTICE

Amit

AMIT
KUMAR
DUBEY

Digitally signed by
AMIT KUMAR
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Date: 2025.07.21
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