

HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH, BILASPUR
Order Sheet

WPPIL No. 14 of 2024

In the matter of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation

Versus

The State of Chhattisgarh & Others

01/03/2024	This matter is taken as Suo Motu cognizance. Mr. Yashwant Singh Thakur, learned Additional Advocate General, appearing for the respondents/State, is present. A news item with a heading “जेलर ने बंदियों को पीटा, किसी का सिर फूटा तो किसी को गंभीर जख्म” and sub-heading “बंदियों का आरोप— रूपए मांगता था जेलर, नहीं दिए तो पीटा, जेलर ने आरोप को बताया गलत, कलेक्टर के निर्देश पर एसडीएम ने शुरू की जांच” has been reported in the “Raigarh Bhaskar” of “Dainik Bhaskar” newspaper on 28.02.2024 that in the sub-jail of the Sarangarh, District Sarangarh-Bilaigarh (C.G.), the Jailer, namely Sandeep Kashyap, has assaulted some of the inmates of the jail in which they have received serious injuries and the allegation is that he was demanding money from the family members of the inmates of the jail on which the incident has happened. The said news report further goes to state that earlier also, in the said sub-jail, various other unfortunate incidents had occurred in which one person had tried to commit suicide by consuming kerosene and

few months back, one inmate had committed suicide by hanging.

The aforesaid news clipping states that one of the inmate had given a sum of Rs. 40,000/- to the Jailer and the Jailer was further demanding a sum of Rs. 50,000/-. Some of the inmates have been given the third degree torture because of which one inmate has been admitted in a hospital whereas the other 9-10 inmates are being treated in the hospital situated in the Jail itself. A picture has also been published alongwith the news which shows how brutally the inmates have been assaulted.

The news report portrays a very sorry state of affairs of the aforesaid jail. A jail/prison plays the key role of protecting society from criminals and crime. Prisons ensure that inmates/prisoners are securely confined away from the rest of the public until they reform and can rejoin society as law-abiding members. In modern sense, it is not only a place where they serve their sentence for the offence committed by them, but is also a centre where they are reformed so they may again join the main stream of the society and lead a healthy life as a law abiding citizens. If such would be the treatment meted out with the inmates by the jail authorities, then their chances of reforming would definitely diminish.

The version of Mr. Sandeep Kashyap, Jailer, sub-jail, Sarangarh has also been published in the said news who states that he had received some information with regard to availability of mobile and

narcotics in the jail and when search was being made, some of the inmates got infuriated and tried to assault them and in order to control them, some force was used and the allegation as aforesaid was incorrect.

The Chairman of Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority has taken note of the aforesaid news item and has directed the jail authorities to inform the family members of the inmates, if they wish to have assistance of the High Court Legal Aid Committee for getting justice.

Considering the incident which has happened in the sub-jail of the Sarangarh, the Director General (Prisons), Chhattisgarh, is directed to file his personal affidavit in the matter bringing on record the report regarding the incident and action, if any, taken against the jail officials.

Let the matter be listed on 06.03.2024.

Learned State counsel is directed to send a copy of this order to the Director General (Prisons), Chhattisgarh, for necessary information and compliance forthwith.

Sd/-
(Arvind Kumar Verma)
Judge

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice