



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPPIL No. 14 of 2024

In The Matter Of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation

Versus

The State Of Chhattisgarh & Others

Order Sheet

25/02/2025	This is an office reference. Heard Mr. Prafull N Bharat, learned Advocate General assisted by Mr. Shashank Thakur, learned Deputy Advocate General for the State/respondents as well as Ms. Priyanka Shukla, learned counsel for the Intervenor. On the last date of hearing, i.e. on 15.01.2025, this Court had directed the respondents/State to file further affidavit in the matter with respect to the status of the enquiry reports and the steps taken. Pursuant to the above direction, the affidavit has been filed by the Law Officer, Central Jail, Bilaspur, which reads as under:

	<i>“2. That, an affidavit in compliance of the order dated 03/12/2024 was filed thereby detailing the stages of the departmental enquiries conducted against 10 delinquent employees as well as completion of departmental enquiry and imposition of punishment on the delinquent employee.</i> <i>3. That, after filing the aforesaid affidavit, the matter was taken up for hearing on 15/01/2025 by the Hon'ble Court and after going through the said affidavit, it was observed by the Hon'ble Court that in the inquiry initiated against 10 persons, enquiry against one delinquent employee is completed and punishment has been imposed, whereas in three cases enquiry report has been submitted and show cause notice has been issued and in three cases enquiry has been concluded and report is under preparation and in three cases enquiry is going on With the aforesaid observations, the Hon'ble Court was further pleased to direct the State to file affidavit in the matter with respect to the status of the enquiry reports and the steps taken.</i> <i>4. That, the present Officer-in-Charge of the case, adhering to the direction of the Hon'ble Court dated 15/01/2025, most humbly and respectfully submits that out of total 10 delinquent employees, as of now the departmental enquiries against 7 delinquent employees namely Shri Tikeshwar Kumar Sahu Warder, Shri Santosh Verma Warder, Shri Mahendra Kumar Sahu Warder, Shri Chitrasen Chandra Warder,</i>
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Shri Sunil Kumar Pandey Warder, Shri Manendra Verma Warder and Shri Purushottam Pradhan Warder have already been completed and the punishments have also been imposed upon Shri Tikeshwar Kumar Sahu Warder, Shri Santosh Verma Warder, Shri Mahendra Kumar Sahu Warder, Shri Chitrasen Chandra Warder, Shri Sunil Kumar Pandey Warder.

5. It is respectfully submitted that since in the departmental enquiry initiated against Shri Manendra Verma Warder and Shri Purushottam Pradhan Warder, the charges levelled against them were not found proved, therefore, they have been exonerated from the said departmental enquiry initiated against them.

6. It is respectfully submitted that against 2 delinquent employees namely Shri Raj Kumar Kurrey Chief Warder and Shri Maheshwar Hichami Warder, the departmental enquiry initiated against them is still going on and would be completed very soon. It is respectfully submitted that due to transfer of the Inquiry Officer who are conducting the departmental enquiry against the aforesaid two delinquent employees, the departmental enquiry initiated against them could not be completed. It is respectfully submitted that in place of the said Inquiry Officer, another Inquiry Officer has already been appointed vide order dated 17/02/2025 and pursuant to the said order, the said Inquiry Officer being Deputy Jail Superintendent has already started the inquiry against

the aforesaid two delinquent employees and in all possibility, the said departmental enquiry would be completed very soon.

7. It is respectfully submitted that so far as the departmental enquiry against one delinquent employee namely Shri Sandeep Kashyap is concerned, in this regard, it is respectfully submitted that the departmental enquiry initiated against one Shri Sandeep Kashyap, Assistant Jail Superintendent has already been completed in which the charges levelled him have been found proved. It is submitted that since the post of Assistant Jail Superintendent falls within the periphery of the Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission, therefore, on the proposed punishment of withholding of one increment with cumulative effect, the concurrence has been sought from the Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission which is still awaited It is submitted that the punishment order to the aforesaid effect would be issued after receipt of the concurrence from the Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission as soon as possible.

To demonstrate the aforesaid averments, copy of the communication dated 21/02/2025 with letter dated 10/02/2025 is being filed herewith as Annexure A/8 colly."

From perusal of the above affidavit, it appears that enquiry in respect of some of the delinquents is still incomplete and as such,

this Court deems it proper to direct the respondent/State to file another affidavit before the next date of hearing stating the updated status of the enquiries conducted against the delinquent officials and the action taken against them, in case they are found guilty.

Let the matter be listed again on **03rd April, 2025**.

Sd/-
(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)
Judge

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice

Amit