

**HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR****WPIL No. 59 of 2022**

Sana Meman & Another **versus** State of Chhattisgarh & Others

Order Sheet

12/02/2026	Heard Mr. Bennoon, learned counsel for the petitioners; Mr. Shashank Thakur, learned Additional Advocate General appearing for the State; Mr. Palash Tiwari, learned counsel appearing for respondent No. 2; and Mr. Shivang Dubey, learned counsel appearing for respondent No. 3. Learned State counsel submits that, with regard to the grant of stipend/financial assistance to junior advocates, as reflected in the minutes of the meeting dated 25.04.2025, the matter is presently under consideration by the State Government. A copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Chhattisgarh Advocates Welfare Fund Committee, held on 25.04.2025 has

been produced by the learned State Counsel.

A perusal of the minutes would show that the said meeting was attended by one of the Deputy Chief Minister of the State, an MLA, learned Advocate General, Secretary, Law & Legislative Affairs, Government of Chhattisgarh, Special Secretary, Finance, a member of Chhattisgarh State Bar Council, Joint Secretary, Chhattisgarh Advocate Welfare Fund Trust-Committee, General Manager, State Bank of India and Divisional Manager, Life Insurance Corporation of India, wherein discussions were held on 8 different points. Point No. 5 related to grant of pension to the Advocates who had completed 65 years of age or 35 years of practice and point No. 6 was in relation to grant of stipend/honorarium of Rs. 5000/- during the first five years of the practice or till attaining the age of 30 years. However, except for discussion, there had been no decision taken as yet.

Upon perusal of the record, it transpires that the present petition was instituted on 30.03.2022 and the

issue raised therein continues to remain under consideration. Despite the lapse of considerable time, i.e., more than four years, no final decision has yet been taken in the matter.

Learned counsel for the petitioners has further invited the attention of this Court to the discussion held in the Lok Sabha on 06.02.2026, wherein it was stated by the Bar Council of India that certain States, namely Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand, have introduced stipend and/or financial assistance measures for junior advocates through State Government schemes, State Bar Council welfare mechanisms and/or structured programmes of Bar Associations. It has also been brought to the notice of this Court that, in the State of Maharashtra, any State-wide stipend scheme is generally contemplated to be implemented through an appropriate framework at the level of the State Bar Council and/or through a State Government-supported programme with necessary administrative and financial arrangements.

Having considered the submissions advanced by learned counsel for the parties and taking into account the prolonged pendency of the matter, this Court considers it appropriate to obtain an authoritative response from the competent authority of the State Government to facilitate effective adjudication of the present petition.

Accordingly, respondent No. 1, i.e., the Secretary, Department of Law & Legislative Affairs, Government of Chhattisgarh, is directed to file a personal affidavit in the matter.

Learned State counsel is directed to send a copy of this order to respondent No. 1 for necessary information and compliance.

List the matter before this Court on **18.03.2026** for consideration of the affidavit to be filed by respondent No. 1.

Sd/-
(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)
Judge

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice