



CGHC010254252026

HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR**WPIL No. 38 of 2026**

In The Matter Of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation

Versus

State Of Chhattisgarh

Order Sheet

07.07.2026	This is an office reference. Heard Mr. Vivek Sharma, learned Advocate General, Mr. Anadi Sharma, learned counsel appearing for the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur and Mr. Varun Sharma, learned counsel for C.S.P.D.C.L. This Court had taken suo motu cognizance of the news item regarding water logging and interrupted electricity supply due to rain and storm. In pursuance thereof, in compliance to the Court's order dated 01.07.2026, the Principal Secretary,

Department of Energy and Chairman, C.G. State Power Companies has filed his personal affidavit, relevant paras of which are reproduced hereinbelow:

"1) That I am the Principal Secretary, Department of Energy, Government of Chhattisgarh arrayed as the Respondent no.3 in the instant suo motu reference and I am aware of the facts and circumstances of the case.

2) That this Hon'ble Court vide order dated 01/07/2026 has directed the answering respondent no.3 to file the instant affidavit "indicating the steps taken for maintenance of the electricity distribution system and for ensuring uninterrupted and proper supply of electricity to the residents of Bilaspur city as well as the drainage system to avoid waterlogging on roads, lanes etc"

3) That since the strengthening of the distribution network in the urban setup like Bilaspur City called for a coordinated effort the answering respondent on 03/07/2026 called for a State Level Meeting with the answering respondent (MD, CSPDCL) and the officials of

the electricity companies. In the said meeting very important decisions have been taken on 9 issues that would ensure the uninterrupted power supply and fast restoration of electricity in case of breakdowns in the Bilaspur city. A copy of the minutes of meeting dated 03/07/2026 is filed herewith as ANNEXURE R-3/1. Copy of the minutes of meeting has been sent by the answering respondent to the concerned authorities, for compliance.

4) That it is respectfully submitted that firstly, the issue of damaged Electricity Poles due to being made up of Cement was taken up and decision has been taken that henceforth "IRON POLES" shall be used in place of damaged cement poles and for new installations. This would prevent the frequent breaking of poles due to vehicular collisions or any other natural event and would greatly reduce the supply interruption due to damage of pole.

5) That it is respectfully submitted that secondly, the issue of felling of trees and hoardings on the distribution lines and interrupting the supply was taken up and it has been decided that an additional skylift vehicle

be arranged immediately for attending the complaints of tree felling. Right now the CSPDCL has one Skylift Vehicle and with the additional skylift vehicle the restoration of supply disrupted due to tree felling would get a boost and the disruptions can be minimized.

6) That it is respectfully submitted that thirdly, the answering respondent has also directed that if needed the skylift vehicles available with other departments should also be made available for supply restoration works whenever needed by the CSPDCL and the Collector, Bilaspur and Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur have been advised to comply.

7) That it is respectfully submitted that, fourthly, the Municipal Corporation Bilaspur has been advised to identify and take action about those Hoardings that disturb the electricity supply.

8) That, it is respectfully submitted that, fifthly, the process regarding establishment of Two New Supply Zones namely Mangla Zone and Koni Zone was decided to be finalized and sanctioned by the CSPDCL. The establishment of two new supply zone would benefit 11731

consumers (Mangla area) and 10080 consumers (Koni Area). It would also reduce the load on the existing zones. It would also ensure that attending to the consumer complaints becomes faster.

9) That it is respectfully submitted that sixthly, an amount of Rs. 10 Crores has been sanctioned in favour of the CSPDCL by the State Government from the Chief Minister Urban Electrification Scheme and the General Development Scheme for identification of spots where frequent breakdowns occur due to storms, bad weather and substitute the bare conductors (open) with covered conductors/cables. The answering respondent CSPDCL has been directed to do this work.

10) That it is respectfully submitted that seventhly, the issue of manpower was considered and it was informed that the CSPDCL has taken up the task to deploy more manpower for ensuring timely and fast response towards the complaints of supply disruptions.

11) That it is respectfully submitted that

eighthly it has been decided that looking to the increasing load/demand of supply of electricity and the problems with the supply with existing sub-stations one EHV (Extra High Voltage) Sub-station and 02 numbers 33/11 KV substations are required to be established. For this purpose, the Collector, Bilaspur will be requested to demarcate and allot the land. The CG Power Transmission Company and the CG Power Distribution Company have been directed to take up the matter and proceed.

12) That it is respectfully submitted that ninthly the decision for timely disposal of call center complaints was taken so that the complaints are promptly registered and resolved within a fixed time period.

13) That the answering respondent has also issued directive on 02/07/2026 to the CSPDCL for ensuring the smooth and uninterrupted power supply and take all necessary steps for the effective implementation of the directives so issued. A copy of the Directive dated 02/07/2026 is annexed as ANNEXURE R-3/2.

14) That the answering respondent has taken

the issue to be of utmost importance and committed to see the change in the ground situation. The answering respondent submits that all the necessary decisions/actions would be taken without any unnecessary delay in this regard.”

Perusal of the affidavit goes to show that the State Government has taken cognizance of the issues highlighted by this Court and has placed on record a series of administrative and infrastructural measures intended to strengthen the electricity distribution system in Bilaspur City. The affidavit discloses that a State-level meeting was convened on 03.07.2026 wherein several decisions were taken, including replacement of damaged cement poles with iron poles, augmentation of skylift vehicles for restoration of power supply, coordination with local authorities for removal of obstructions affecting electricity lines, establishment of two new electricity supply zones, sanction of Rs.10 crores for replacement of vulnerable bare conductors with covered conductors, deployment

of additional manpower, proposal for establishment of one Extra High Voltage Sub-station and two 33/11 KV substations, and measures for prompt redressal of consumer complaints through the call centre mechanism. The affidavit further indicates that necessary directions have also been issued to the concerned authorities to ensure effective implementation of the aforesaid decisions.

In compliance to the Court of dated 01.07.2026, the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Bilaspur, has also filed his affidavit, relevant paragraphs of which are reproduced hereinbelow:

“2. That this affidavit is being filed in compliance with the order dated 01/07/2026 passed by this Hon'ble Court in W.P.(PIL) No. 38 of 2026, whereby, this Hon'ble Court has, inter alia, been pleased to direct respondent No. 5 to file the instant affidavit "indicating the steps taken for maintenance of the electricity distribution system and for ensuring uninterrupted and proper supply of electricity to the residents of Bilaspur city as well as the drainage system to avoid waterlogging on

roads, lanes etc".

3. That, in order to ensure effective management of rainwater drainage, waterlogging and flood-related emergencies during the monsoon season, the Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur has constituted a dedicated Flood Control Cell (बाढ़ नियंत्रण कक्ष) at Vikas Bhawan, Nehru Chowk, Bilaspur, vide Order Dated 04.06.2026. The said order appoints Nodal Officers, prescribes shift-wise deployment of officers and staff, establishes complaint redressal and monitoring mechanisms, and lays down comprehensive flood management protocols. A copy of the order Dated 04.06.2026, issued by the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Bilaspur (C.G.) is annexed herewith as ANNEXURE R-5/1.

4. That the aforesaid office order further provides for pre-identification of relief shelters, maintenance of emergency lighting and drinking water facilities, cleaning and disinfection of drains and sewers, deployment of rescue personnel and firefighting teams,

availability of JCBs, pumps and other machinery, constitution of special engineering teams for emergency repairs, establishment of zone-level Flood Control Cells, continuous field monitoring by officers, and mandatory attendance of all concerned officials during heavy rainfall to ensure prompt response and mitigation of waterlogging and flood-related issues.

5. That, for the purposes of the aforesaid pre-monsoon drain maintenance and flood-mitigation measures, the Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur has a fleet of 14 vehicles available for desilting, transportation of silt and solid waste, and other allied maintenance operations across the municipal limits. The details of the vehicles, including their type, registration numbers, are annexed herewith as ANNEXURE R-5/2.

6. That, as part of the pre-monsoon drain cleaning drive, the Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur has undertaken cleaning and desilting of major and minor drains across all eight municipal zones from April, 2026 till date. The zone-wise details of the drain cleaning works

carried out during the said period, along with the cleaning schedule, are annexed herewith as ANNEXURE R-5/3. Further, copies of photographs of the drain cleaning works, taken on various dates and bearing geo-location tags, are annexed herewith as ANNEXURE R-5/4.

7. That the aforesaid measures, including the constitution of the Flood Control Cell, pre-monsoon desilting and drain-cleaning drive, deployment of manpower, machinery and emergency response mechanisms, demonstrate that the Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur is acting in a bona fide, diligent and proactive manner. A functional and effective system has been put in place for prevention of waterlogging, maintenance of storm water drains and management of flood-related contingencies during the monsoon season, which the answering respondent is committed to maintain, strengthen and continuously improve in the larger public interest and in compliance with the directions of this Hon'ble Court. 8. That the Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur has, in the past, extended and continues to extend full cooperation and

assistance to all concerned departments and authorities during emergencies, including heavy rainfall, flooding, waterlogging, disruption of electricity supply and other civic contingencies, by making available its manpower, vehicles, machinery and other resources to facilitate prompt response, restoration of essential services and mitigation of public inconvenience.”

Perusal of the aforesaid affidavit goes to show that the Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur has undertaken various pre-monsoon and emergency preparedness measures, including constitution of a Flood Control Cell, deployment of nodal officers and emergency response teams, desilting and cleaning of drains across all municipal zones, deployment of vehicles and machinery, and establishment of mechanisms for prompt redressal of complaints relating to waterlogging and flood management. The affidavit further indicates that the Corporation has assured continued coordination with other departments for effective management of civic

emergencies during the monsoon season.

In compliance to the Court's of dated 01.07.2026, the Managing Director, Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Limited, Raipur has also filed his affidavit, relevant paragraphs of which are reproduced hereinbelow:

“3) That since the strengthening of the distribution network in the urban setup like Bilaspur City called for a coordinated effort the Secretary, Department of Energy on 03/07/2026 called for a State Level Meeting with the answering respondent (MD, CSPDCL) and the officials of the electricity company. In the said meeting very important decisions have been taken on 9 issues that would ensure power supply and fast restoration of electricity breakdowns in the Bilaspur city. The issue-wise compliances are submitted below for the kind consideration of this Hon'ble Court. A copy of the minutes of meeting dated 03/07/2026 is filed herewith as ANNEXURE R-6/1.

4) That it is respectfully submitted that firstly, the issue of damaged Electricity Poles due to being made up of Cement was taken up and decision has been taken that henceforth "IRON POLES" shall be used in place of damaged cement poles and for new installations. This would prevent the frequent breaking of poles due to vehicular collisions or any other natural event and would greatly reduce the supply interruption due to damage of pole.

5) That it is respectfully submitted that secondly, the issue of felling of trees on the distribution lines and interrupting the supply was taken up and it has been decided that an additional skylift vehicle be arranged immediately for attending the complaints of tree felling. Right now the CSPDCL has one Skylift Vehicle and with the additional skylift vehicle the restoration of supply disrupted due to tree felling would get a boost and the disruptions can be minimized.

6) That it is respectfully submitted that thirdly, if needed on request of CSPDCL the skylift vehicles available with other departments may also be made available for supply restoration works whenever

needed by the CSPDCL with coordination of the Collector, Bilaspur and Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur.

7) That it is respectfully submitted that, fourthly, the officials of CSPDCL will identify the locations of hoardings which disturb the supply line during bad weather. The Municipal Corporation is requested to take action on such identified locations/hoardings.

8) That, it is respectfully submitted that, fifthly, the process regarding establishment of Two New Supply Zones namely Mangla Zone and Koni Zone was decided to be finalized and sanctioned. The establishment of two new supply zone would benefit 11731 consumers (Mangla area) and 10080 consumers (Koni Area). It would also reduce the load on the existing zones. It would also ensure that attending to the consumer complaints becomes faster. Copies of Departmental Brief regarding establishment of New Supply Zones of Mangla and Koni are annexed herewith as ANNEXURE R-6/2.

9) That it is respectfully submitted that sixthly, an amount of Rs. 10 Crores has

been sanctioned in favour of the CSPDCL by the State Government from the Chief Minister Urban Electrification Scheme and the Normal Development Scheme for identification of spots where frequent breakdowns occur due to storms, bad weather and substitute the bare conductors (open) with covered conductors/cables. The answering respondent CSPDCL has been directed to do this work.

10) That it is respectfully submitted that seventhly, the issue of manpower was considered and CSPDCL has taken up the task to deploy more manpower for ensuring timely and fast response towards the complaints of supply disruptions. In this regard the answering respondents respectfully submits that the following steps are already in motion in this regard.

a. RATE CONTRACT AWARD FOR EMERGENCY WORKS: *In the month of April 2026, the CSPCL has issued rate contracts for emergency works (replacement of damaged poles, conductors and cables etc. on 11 KV/LT network) and erection of new 11 KV/LT Network and*

installation for DT for new service connection for all 7 Supply Zones in Bilaspur and 2 Supply Divisions. Copies of all the Work Orders dated 08/04/2026 are collectively annexed as ANNEXURE R-6/3. As per the details of the work awarded the contractors and their workforce is in place and has been handling the work. However, looking to the extreme weather events in short succession the team was facing difficulties in approaching multiple places at the same time.

b. TENDER FOR ADDITIONAL WORKFORCE: *The CSPDCL has initiated the process for recruiting 01 Skilled and 03 Unskilled labour for every zone and division by way of two NIT dated 05/06/2026 that are annexed as ANNEXURE R- 6/4. With increase in manpower the restoration work would be reinforced. The aforesaid Tender Process would be finalized without any further delay and reported to this Hon'ble Court.*

**C. SANCTION OF ADDITIONAL
MANPOWER FOR HIGH TENSION
LINE MAINTENANCE:**

The CSPDCL has sanctioned the employment of similar additional workforce for the High Tension Lines that comes under the HT Maintenance City Division 1 and HT Maintenance City Division 2. Copies of Departmental Sanction are annexed as ANNEXURE R-6/5. NIT dated 02/07/2026 has been issued for the said work for one division and the NIT for other division would be issued very shortly. Copy of NIT dated 02/07/2026 is annexed as ANNEXURE R-6/6.

d. Direction has been given to the CSPDCL to use the resources of unaffected zones by the affected zones at the time of breakdown.

11) That it is respectfully submitted that eighthly it has been decided that looking to the increasing load/demand of supply of electricity and the problems with the supply with existing sub-stations one EHV (Extra High Voltage) Sub-station and 02 numbers

33/11 KV substations are required to be established. For this purpose, the Collector, Bilaspur has been requested to demarcate and allot the land. The CG Power Transmission Company has been directed to take up the matter and proceed. In this regard the CSPDCL also submits that small areas are also required within the city for installing sub-stations for strengthening the supply. In this regard the land request proposal has already been submitted to the District Administration. The establishment of sub-stations would greatly reduce the load and would ensure uninterrupted supply and lesser complaints.

12) That it is respectfully submitted that ninthly the decision for timely disposal of call center complaints and fixing of timeline was taken so that complaints are immediately registered and resolved within a small fixed time period. 13) That apart from the above decisions taken in the meeting the CSPDCL has also authorized the competent authority at the Divisional level to ensure alternate arrangement regarding recruiting manpower in case of strike/lockout situation. Copy of Circular

dated 23/06/2026 regarding immediate alternate arrangement is annexed as ANNEXURE R-6/14.”

Perusal of the aforesaid affidavit goes to show that the Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Limited has undertaken various measures to strengthen the electricity distribution system and ensure prompt restoration of power supply during adverse weather conditions. The affidavit indicates that steps have been initiated for replacement of damaged cement poles with iron poles, augmentation of emergency equipment and manpower, establishment of two new supply zones, sanction of funds for replacement of vulnerable conductors, creation of additional substations, deployment of additional maintenance personnel, and formulation of a mechanism for expeditious redressal of consumer complaints, besides ensuring better inter-departmental coordination for uninterrupted electricity supply.

Despite the affidavits having been filed by the concerned authorities indicating the measures proposed and initiated, this Court is of the considered view that much more remains to be done to ensure effective implementation of the proposed measures at the ground level. Mere formulation of action plans would not suffice unless the same translate into tangible results for the benefit of the residents of Bilaspur.

Accordingly, the Principal Secretary, Department of Energy, Government of Chhattisgarh, the Managing Director, Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Limited, and the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur are directed to personally monitor the implementation of the decisions reflected in their respective affidavits and file fresh affidavits indicating the progress made and the concrete steps taken pursuant to the earlier directions of this Court.

The concerned authorities shall also ensure that, during the ongoing monsoon season, there is no

avoidable waterlogging on public roads, lanes and other areas within the municipal limits, that the drainage system is properly cleaned and maintained to facilitate free flow of rainwater, and that uninterrupted electricity supply is maintained to the maximum extent possible. In the event of any disruption in electricity supply or complaint regarding waterlogging, immediate remedial measures shall be undertaken so that the grievance is redressed without undue delay.

List this matter for further monitoring on **30.07.2026**.

Sd/-

(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)
Judge

Sd/-

(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice