



CGHC010254252026

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

In The Matter Of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation

Versus

State Of Chhattisgarh & Others

Order Sheet

30/07/2026	This is an office reference. Heard Mr. Vivek Sharma, learned Advocate General appearing for the State/respondents No. 1 to 4, Mr. Anadi Sharma, learned counsel for the respondent No. 5/Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur and Mr. Varun Sharma, learned counsel for the respondent No. 6/CSPDCL. On the last date of hearing i.e. on 07.07.2026, the Principal Secretary, Department of Energy, Government of Chhattisgarh, the Managing Director, CSPDCL and the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur, were directed to personally monitor the implementation of the decisions reflected in their

respective affidavits and to file fresh affidavits indicating the progress made and the concrete steps taken pursuant to the earlier directions of this Court.

In compliance of the above direction, affidavits have been filed. The relevant portion of the affidavit filed by the Principal Secretary, Department of Energy, Government of Chhattisgarh, reads as under:

“3. It is respectfully submitted that the deponent, in the capacity of Principal Secretary, Department of Energy, and Chairman, Chhattisgarh State Power Companies, has ensured the initiation of various remedial measures in compliance with the order dated 07/07/2026 passed by this Hon'ble Court. Pursuant thereto, the authorities of the Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Limited (CSPDCL) have replaced all the broken cement poles with iron poles to ensure safe, effective, and uninterrupted power supply.

4. It is most respectfully submitted that prompt steps for the procurement of additional Sky Lift Machines/Vehicles have already been initiated, and a Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) to this effect was floated on 23/07/2026. It is further submitted that effective coordination has also been established with other departments to ensure the availability and deployment of Sky Lift Vehicles whenever required.

5. It is respectfully submitted that necessary steps have also been initiated to identify and remove or suitably address dangerous advertising boards that may obstruct or endanger the electricity distribution network, particularly during strong winds or mild

storms, so as to ensure the safe and uninterrupted supply of electricity.

6. It is respectfully submitted that proposals for the establishment of two new electricity supply zones, namely, Mangla Zone and Koni Zone, have been submitted for obtaining the requisite administrative and financial sanctions on a priority basis. The establishment of these two new supply zones will ensure a more reliable and uninterrupted supply of electricity, minimize voltage fluctuations and unnecessary disruptions, and facilitate efficient distribution and management of the electrical load.

7. It is respectfully submitted that emergent steps have been taken for sanctioning an additional sum of Rs. 10 Crores in favour of the Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Limited (CSPDCL) for the upgradation of critical electrical infrastructure with a view to ensuring an uninterrupted supply of electricity. It is further submitted that a decision has also been taken to deploy additional manpower for the effective implementation of the decisions and measures undertaken by the State Government as well as the CSPDCL

8. It is respectfully submitted that necessary steps have already been initiated for the allotment of land at Village Lokhandi for the establishment of a High Voltage Sub-Station and additional 33/11 KV Sub-Stations. In this regard, the concerned Tehsildar has already initiated the preliminary proceedings by issuing the requisite public notice. It is further submitted that, with a view to effectively addressing the electricity-related issues in the area, the CSPDCL has also requested the Collector, Bilaspur, vide communication dated 10/07/2026, for allotment of land for the establishment of two additional 33/11 KV Sub-Stations at Jawali Nalah and Mangla River View Area. The deponent respectfully submits that all necessary

administrative action and statutory sanctions shall be ensured expeditiously and without any avoidable delay.”

The relevant portion of the affidavit filed by the Managing Director, CSPDCL, reads as under:

“3) That in compliance of the first decision to replace the damaged cement poles with iron poles within the Bilaspur city 21 number of replacements have been done in various areas of the Bilaspur City till date. A copy of the relevant area wise data regarding installation of iron poles with photographs is annexed as ANNEXURE R-6/8. All the required budgetary arrangements have been put in place to ensure The damaged cement poles are gradually replaced with iron poles to ensure stronger and resilient distribution system within the Bilaspur City.

4) That it is respectfully submitted that in compliance of the second decision for procuring the additional skylift vehicle the Notice Inviting Tender has been floated vide NIT No. SE/City/Pur/NIT-32/2026-27/1429 Bilaspur dated 23/07/2026. A copy of the NIT dated 23/07/2026 is annexed as ANNEXURE R-6/9

5) That with regard to the third decision for ensuring availability of skylift vehicle and other instruments in coordination with the other departments the necessary correspondence has been done with the local authorities Le Municipal Corporation Bilaspur with copy to authorities. Copy of correspondences made with the Municipal Corporation Bilaspur for sharing resources are annexed as ANNEXURE R-6/10.

6) That with regard to the fourth decision regarding identification of dangerous advertisement/hoardings

	<i>that may be disruptive or dangerous for the electricity supply at the time of storm like situations the CSPDCL has identified the dangerous hoardings with GPS Coordinates and has supplied the data to the Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur vide letters dated 10/07/2026 and 14/07/2026. Copies of the Letters dated 10/07/2026 and 14/07/2026 supplying hoardings data are annexed as ANNEXURE R-6/11</i> <i>7) That, it is respectfully submitted that, the fifth decision regarding the process for establishment of Two New Supply Zones namely Mangla Zone and Koni Zone a freshly updated proposal for presentation before the Board of Directors has been forwarded from the Bilaspur City Division-2 to the Head Office at Raipur for necessary administrative and financial sanctions. Preparations are being done to ensure the aforesaid proposals are kept in the forthcoming Board Meeting with top priority. Copies of the updated proposals for new Supply Zones are annexed as ANNEXURE R-6/12.</i> <i>8) That in compliance of the Sixth decision of the sanctioned additional sum of Rs. 10 Crores the CSPDCL, City Bilaspur has started utilizing the same by sanctioning estimates of relief work and also the augmentation of existing open lines to covered convertors. Copy of the estimates for the works in progress are annexed as ANNEXURE R-6/13.</i> <i>9) That, with regard to the seventh decision regarding the deployment of additional manpower, the tenders which were earlier issued have been taken forward and manpower has been engaged by issuing work orders. Copies of work orders for additional manpower issued so far are annexed as ANNEXURE R-6/14.</i> <i>10) That with regard to the Eighth decision for establishing additional Extra High Voltage Sub-station and 02 numbers 33/11 KV substations it is</i>
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respectfully submitted that for requesting allotment of land in the village Lokhandi the revenue authorities have proceeded and the public notice has been issued by the Tansildar, Sakri on 21/07/2026. Copy of public notice issued by the Tahsildar, Sakri is annexed as ANNEXURE R-6/15.

11) That similar land requests for establishing 2 nos. 33/11 KV Substations in Jawali Nala (old bus stand) and Mangla River View area has been submitted by the CSPDCL to the Collector Bilaspur vide letters dated 10/07/2026. Copies of the land request letters are annexed as ANNEXURE R-6/16.

12) That it is respectfully submitted that the ninth issue of timely disposal of call center complaints has been ensured and maximum complaints have been successfully resolved within the time period prescribed by the Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission (CSERC) and relevant areawise data has been collected.

13) That it is respectfully submitted that with regard to the historical rain and waterlogging incident that cropped up suddenly on 17/07/2026 the CSPDCL authorities took all the necessary steps in due coordination to restore the supply in the areas affected by waterlogging. The public has also acknowledged the work of CSPDCL and the same was reported in the local newspapers also. Copy of one such news report regarding waterlogging supply disruptions is annexed as ANNEXURE R-6/17.”

The relevant portion of the affidavit, filed by the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur, reads as under:

“2. That this affidavit is being filed in continuation of and supplementary to my carlier affidavit dated 07.07.2026 filed on behalf of respondent No. 5 in

W.P.(PIL) No. 38 of 2026, which was in compliance with the order dated 01.07.2026 passed by this Hon'ble Court, and in further compliance with the subsequent order dated 07.07.2026 passed by this Hon'ble Court directing, inter alia, the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur to file a fresh affidavit indicating the progress made and the concrete steps taken pursuant to the earlier directions of this Hon'ble Court.

3. That the measures and arrangements earlier detailed in paragraphs 3 to 8 of my affidavit dated 07.07.2026, particularly regarding the constitution of a dedicated Flood Control Cell (बाढ़ नियंत्रण कक्ष) at Vikas Bhawan, Nehru Chowk, Bilaspur vide order dated 04.06.2026, the pre-monsoon desilting and cleaning of major and minor drains across all eight municipal zones, the deployment of vehicles, machinery and emergency response teams, and the coordination with other departments and authorities during emergencies, continue to remain in force during the ongoing monsoon season and constitute the core institutional framework for prevention and mitigation of waterlogging and flood-related contingencies within the municipal limits of Bilaspur.

4. That, pursuant to and in furtherance of the aforesaid arrangements and in compliance with the directions of this Hon'ble Court, the Flood Control Cell (बाढ़ नियंत्रण कक्ष) established at Vikas Bhawan, Nehru Chowk, Bilaspur is effectively functioning during the ongoing monsoon season and is attending to complaints regarding rainwater drainage, waterlogging and related civic issues as and when such complaints are received from residents and other stakeholders.

5. That, for the purposes of systematic monitoring of grievances and remedial action, a dedicated complaint register is being maintained at the Flood

Control Cell, wherein the details of complaints received and the corresponding remedial measures taken are being recorded, and efforts are made to ensure that all such complaints are addressed and resolved within time and without undue delay Copy of the relevant pages of the complaint register of the Flood Control Cell for the ongoing monsoon season are annexed herewith and marked as ANNEXURE R-5/5.

6. That the maintenance and regular updating of the complaint register at the Flood Control Cell ensures transparency and enables continuous supervision of the status of complaints, facilitates timely follow-up of field-level remedial action, and strengthens the overall institutional mechanism for prevention and mitigation of water logging and flood-related issues in different parts of Bilaspur city.

7. That, in addition to addressing complaints regarding waterlogging and drainage, the Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur is undertaking sanitary measures after rainfall in the affected areas with a view to prevent health hazards, including, inter alia, the application of bleaching powder, fogging operations and cleaning of drains and adjoining areas so as to minimise the risk of water-borne and vector-borne diseases and to safeguard public health during the monsoon season.

8. That, to demonstrate the aforesaid sanitary measures, copies of photographs taken on various dates during the ongoing monsoon season, depicting bleaching, fogging and cleaning of drains and surrounding areas in different localities of Bilaspur city after rainfall, are annexed herewith and marked as ANNEXURE R-5/6.

9. That the answering respondent, while remaining fully conscious of the concerns expressed by this Hon'ble Court in its order dated 07.07.2026, shall

continue to monitor and review the functioning of the Flood Control Cell and the field teams and shall further strengthen and improve, as may be necessary, the existing systems and protocols relating to drainage, waterlogging and post-rain sanitary measures, in the larger public interest and to ensure effective implementation of the decisions and directions already placed on record before this Hon'ble Court."

Having regard to the statements made in the personal affidavits filed by the Principal Secretary, Department of Energy, Government of Chhattisgarh, the Managing Director, Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Limited (CSPDCL), and the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur, this Court is satisfied that substantial steps have been initiated towards compliance with the earlier directions issued by this Court. However, since several measures, including establishment of new supply zones, creation of additional substations, procurement of Sky Lift Vehicles, removal of hazardous hoardings, augmentation of electrical infrastructure, and strengthening of the flood management mechanism, are still in progress and require continuous supervision, this Court considers it appropriate to keep the present proceedings pending for further monitoring.

Accordingly, list this matter on **25th August, 2026**.

By the next date of hearing, the Managing Director, CSPDCL, as well as the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation,

Bilaspur shall each file a fresh personal affidavit indicating the progress achieved since the filing of their present affidavits, the timelines within which the remaining measures are proposed to be completed, and the steps taken to ensure effective implementation of the directions issued by this Court. The authorities concerned shall continue to personally monitor the implementation of the decisions reflected in their affidavits so that the citizens of Bilaspur are not subjected to avoidable hardship, particularly during the ongoing monsoon season.

Sd/-
(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)
JUDGE

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
CHIEF JUSTICE