

HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH, BILASPUR

Order Sheet

WPPIL No. 75 of 2023

In The Matter of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation

Versus

The Chief Secretary & Others

15.07.2024	<p>This is an office reference.</p> <p>Heard Mr. Ishan Verma, Mr. Amiyakant Tiwari, Mr. Sidharth Dubey, learned Court Commissioners and Mr. Yashwant Singh Thakur, learned Additional Advocate General, appearing for the respondent/ State.</p> <p>Learned counsel for the State submits that in compliance of the Court's order dated 08.07.2024, an affidavit has been filed by the Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, Department of Women and Child Development, which is reproduced here below : -</p> <p><i>"1. That, the Hon'ble Court has taken cognizance of a news item that was displayed on ND TV wherein it was reported that there are 52000 Anganbadi centers in the state that have not been supplied with Ready to Eat Food. The Hon'ble Court took suo-moto</i></p>

cognizance of the news item.

2. That, another news item was published in Dainik Bhaskar on 04.07.2024 with the heading "162 करोड़ का पेमेंट अटका, प्रदेश में रेडी टू इट की सप्लाई एक महिने से बंद "with a sub-heading" 140 करोड़ फूड के और 22 करोड़ की जीएसटी भी विभाग में अटकी, बीज निगम ने हाथ खड़े किये, मंत्री को जानकारी नहीं". The Hon'ble Court took cognizance of the above news and has directed the Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, Department of Women and Child Development, to file a personal affidavit on the issues.

3. That, a report was called from the District Programme Officer Surajpur, the District Programme Officer Kabirdham, and the District Programme Officer Bastar with respect to the supply and distribution of Ready to Eat Food in Anganbadi centers.

4. That, the District Programme Officer, Surajpur, has reported that the Chhattisgarh Rajya Beej Avam Krishi Vikas Nigam Limited has supplied full stock of Ready to Eat for Anganbadi Centers for the month of June, and the same has been distributed to the Anganbadi Centers. It has been reported that regular hot cooked meals, as per the menu

fixed by the department are being provided in the Anganbadi Centers. For the month of July, the supply of Ready to Eat is underway.

5. That, as per the report of the District Programme Officer, Kabirdham, six Anganbadi centers are being run in Gram Panchayat Tirti. It was reported that the extra stock that was left in the month of May was distributed as a take home ration in the month of June. The department has received the whole stock of Ready to Eat for the month of June, and the process of procuring the stock for the month of July is in progress. Hot cooked meals are being distributed as per the norms to the children in the Anganbadi Centers.

6. That, as per the reports of the District Programme Officer, Bastar, the stock of Ready to Eat for the month of June faced irregular supply, therefore, Ready to Eat was not distributed regularly in the Anganbadi Center Puspal, which has been stocked, and distribution has been done in Puspal AWC. The rest of the Anganbadi Centers received Ready to Eat for the month of June. The procurement of stock for Ready to Eat for the month of July is in progress.

7. That, it is submitted that the Department

has paid all the outstanding bills to Chhattisgarh Rajya Beej Avam Krishi Vikas Nigam Limited as far as the supply of Ready to Eat Food is concerned. There are no outstanding bills as of now, and the supply of Ready to Eat food is regular in all the districts.

The affidavit may kindly be taken on record."

From the perusal of the said affidavit it transpires that 'Ready to Eat' food has been distributed for the month of June, 2024 through the Anganbadi Centers and further the payment of the outstanding bills of Chhattisgarh Rajya Beej Avam Krishi Vikas Nigam Limited for supply of 'Ready to Eat' food has also been cleared.

'Ready to Eat' food is regular in all the Districts of the State, but in order to verify the contents of the present affidavit, we deem it proper to direct the 3 Court Commissioners namely Mr. Amiyakant Tiwari, Mr. Ishan Verma and Mr. Sidharth Dubey, who are present before this Court to visit the places in question in Districts Surajpur, Kabirdham and Bastar respectively in order to ascertain the conditions of the Anganbadi Centers where the supply of 'Ready to Eat' and other basic amenities are to be

provided in the said centers.

The learned State counsel is directed to supply a copy of affidavit filed today by the Secretary concerned to the Court Commissioners and who would submit a report in the matter to this Court.

The District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police of concerned districts are directed to provide adequate security and make arrangements for the Court Commissioners for the aforesaid purpose and Rs.10,000/- shall be paid to each of them by the State.

Let the matter be again listed **on 13th of August, 2024.**

Sd/-
(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)
Judge

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice