



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPPIL No. 75 of 2023

In The Matter Of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation

Versus

The Chief Secretary & Others

Order Sheet

04/08/2025	Heard Mr. Y.S.Thakur, learned Additional Advocate General for the State/respondent No. 1 to 5 as well as Mr. Ashish Tiwari, learned counsel appearing for the Municipal corporation, Bhilai-Charoda. On 30.01.2025, the Secretary, Women and Child Development Department, Government of Chhattisgarh as well as Director, Women and Child Development, Government of Chhattisgarh, alongwith District Magistrate, Balod were directed to file their personal affidavits in the matter. Thereafter, on 05.03.2025, further time was sought by the learned State counsel which was allowed and the time for

filing of the affidavit was extended by two weeks.

In compliance of the order dated 30.01.2025, the Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, Department of Women and Child Development, has filed her affidavit stating as under:

“1. That, vide order dated 30.01.2025, the Hon’ble Court was pleased to direct the Secretary, Women and Child Development, Chhattisgarh, Raipur and the District Magistrate, Balod to file their personal affidavit with respect to the report of the Court Commissioner Shri Amiya Kant Tiwari.

2. It is most humbly and respectfully submitted by the deponent that the report received from the Court Commissioner Shri Amiyakant Tiwari has been duly examined and the deficiencies found in the report has also been met out by the concerned authorities. The District Programme Officer, Women and Child Development, Balod has taken steps to remove deficiencies as pointed out by the learned Court Commissioner. Copy of report alongwith the photograph submitted by the District Programme Officer, Women and Child Development, Balod is filed herewith as Annexure D/1 collectively.”

Similar affidavit has been filed by the Collector / District Magistrate, Balod.

From perusal of the same, it appears that the situation has become better now.

Today, the matter has been listed for hearing as a news report has been published on 03.08.2025 in Hindi Daily, Navbharat with a heading “स्कूल में परोसा कुत्ते की जूठी सब्जी, 83 छात्रों को रेबीज टीका लगा, पलारी के ग्राम लच्छनपुर शाला का मामला” and Haribhoomi, with a heading “लापरवाही की हद पार : मध्यान भोजन में जानबूझकर परोसा कुत्ते का जूठा, फिर लगाया रेबीज का एंटी डोज”.

The aforesaid news report relates to a Government Middle School situated at village Lachhanpur of Block Palari of District Balodabazar. The said news states that on 28th July, 2025, food which was licked by a dog has been served to the students. When the students informed their parents, a meeting of the School Committee was held and under the pressure of the parents, 83 students were administered two doses of anti-rabies each. The angry parents have demanded enquiry against the delinquents and to take stern action against them. The Collector, Balodabazar, has temporarily

removed the Jai Lakshmi Swa Sahayta Samuh who had served the unhygienic food. The incident has been reported to the Chief Minister of the State to get the matter investigated. The Sub Divisional Magistrate, Palari has formed a committee headed by the Sub Divisional Officer who would investigate the matter.

From the aforesaid news, it transpires that when the students saw the stray dogs licking the food, it was informed to the school administration, however, the say of the school administration is that they had restrained from serving the said food licked by the dogs but still the Swa Sahayta Samuh distributed the same. According to the news reported in Haribhoomi, 84 students had eaten the said food but 78 students were administered first doses of anti rabies. The District Education Officer, Balodabazar, has issued notices to the Head Master and Cluster Coordinator and upon receipt of their reply, further action would be taken.

It is highly surprising that the Swa Sahayta Samuh who are responsible for serving food to the students, are performing their duties in a casual manner without keeping in mind the safety and hygiene. The photograph published

alongwith the news shows two utensils on clay stove lying in an open area which could be eaten / soiled by any stray animals, be it dogs, pigs, rodents etc. The teachers who are posted in the school also appear to be least concerned about the safety of the children which is gross negligence. Both the aforesaid news state different number of children who have been administered anti rabies doses. As soon as it came to the knowledge of the teachers that the food has been licked by the dog, it should have been disposed of and no students should have been allowed to eat the same. There appears to be serious dereliction on the part of the Swa Sahayta Samuh as well as the teachers and the life of the students have been put to danger as once a person is infected with rabies, there is no cure available.

Providing food to the students studying in the schools is not an empty formality and the same has to be done with dignity. A person, especially innocent child cannot be served any eatables which has been licked / soiled by a dog. When the State Government is spending so much of funds for upliftment of the schools and its paraphernalia, then such lapses on the part of the authorities responsible for its

functioning, is a matter of serious concern.

In view of the above, the Secretary, School Education Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, is directed to file his personal affidavit informing this Court as to (i) whether each and every student, who had consumed the soiled food in the school, have been administered doses of anti rabies vaccine, (ii) what action has been taken against the Swa Sahayta Samuh as well as the Teachers/Head Master of the school concerned, (iii) whether any compensation has been given to the students on account of such negligence which has put their life in danger, (iv) and what precautionary measures the Department would take so as to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future.

Let this matter be listed on **19th August, 2025**.

Sd/-
(Bibhu Datta Guru)
JUDGE

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
CHIEF JUSTICE