



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPPIL No. 75 of 2023

IN THE MATTER OF SUO MOTO PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION

versus

THE CHIEF SECRETARY & ORS

<p>28/10/2025</p>	<p>Heard Mr. Amiyakant Tiwari, learned Court Commissioner. Mr. Yashwant Singh Thakur, learned Additional Advocate General appearing for the State, Mr. Ramakant Mishra, learned D.S.G.I. with Mr. Tushar Dhar Diwan, learned Central Government Counsel for the respondent Union of India.</p> <p>In compliance of the Court's order dated 17.09.2025, the Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh has filed his personal affidavit, the relevant portion of the same is reproduced hereinbelow:</p> <p><i>“3. It is most humbly and respectfully submitted by the deponent that after coming to know about the said news, an enquiry was conducted by the Block Education Officer, Bilha. In the enquiry, it is found that Headmaster Mrs. Savitri Sharma was aware that the Kalyani Self Help</i></p>

Group, Mangla was serving children substandard food, but she did not inform the higher authorities, resulting in the incident which occurred on 12.09.2025 of serving poor quality midday meal. On the basis of enquiry report, the Joint Director, School Education, Bilaspur vide order dated 17.09.2025 suspended the Headmaster Smt. Savitri Sharma, Govt. middle School, Mangla. Copy of order dated 17.09.2025 and enquiry report is filed herewith as ANNEXURE D/1 & D/2.

4. That, on 07.10.2025 the District Education Officer, Bilaspur sent the enquiry report to the Collector Bilaspur and the Director, Public Instructions, Raipur for taking action against the Kalyani Self Help Group, Mangla.

5. It is further submitted that for not providing the information regarding distribution of poor quality to the children, the Joint Director, School Education, Bilaspur suspended Shri Chandrakant Kashyap, Cluster Coordinator vide order dated 10.10.2025, which is filed herewith as ANNEXURE D/3. It is further submitted that vide order dated 11.10.2025, Smt. Bhawna Tiwari, Incharge-Mid-day Meal has also

been suspended for her negligence. Copy of order dated 11.10.2025 is filed herewith as ANNEXURE D/4.

6. That, a show cause notice dated 10.10.2025 has also been sent to Smt. Sunita Dhruw, Assistant Block Education Officer, Bilha, Distt. Bilaspur regarding her negligency in monitoring the midday meal. Copy of show cause notice dated 10.10.2025 is filed herewith as ANNEXURE D/5. Show cause notice dated 11.10.2025 has also been issued to Smt. Bhawna Bajpai, Teacher (L.B.), who did not put proper comment after tasting the food in the Mid-day Meal taste register. Copy of show cause notice dated 11.10.2025 is filed herewith as ANNEXURE D/6.

7. It is further submitted that the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur vide order dated 09.10.2025 has handed over the management of Midday meal to another group namely Pahal Group, Bilaspur. Copy of order dated 09.10.2025 is filed herewith as ANNEXURE D/7.

8. It is most humbly submitted that to avoid recurrence of the incident that happened in Government Middle School, Mangla, the

District Education Officer, Bilaspur has issued instructions to Block Education Officers, Block Resource Coordinator and Cluster Coordinators along with for continuous monitoring of Self Help Groups of all the institutions running Mid-day Meal and to ensure that quality food is served to the children in the Mid-day Meal. Copy of order dated 25.09.2025 is filed herewith as ANNEXURE D/8.

9. DPI has issued an instructions to all District Education Officers and Block Education officers to strictly compliance of detailed instruction issued by Chief Secretary dated 09-09-2025 is filed herewith as Annexure D/9.”

From perusal of above affidavit, would goes to show that there was negligence on the part of the Headmaster Smt. Savitri Sharma, Govt. middle School, Mangla, did not inform the higher authorities, resulting in the incident which occurred on 12.09.2025 of serving poor quality midday meal and in enquiry, she has also been suspended on 17/09/2025. The action has also been taken against the Kalyani Self Help Group, Mangla by the District Education Officer on 07/10/2025. Further, the Joint Director, School Education, Bilaspur has suspended Shri Chandrakant Kashyap, Cluster Coordinator vide order dated 10.10.2025 and vide

order dated 11.10.2025, Smt. Bhawna Tiwari, Incharge-Mid-day Meal has also been suspended. A show cause notice dated 10.10.2025 has also been issued to Smt. Sunita Dhruw, Assistant Block Education Officer, Bilha, Distt. Bilaspur regarding her negligence in monitoring the midday meal.

Further, The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur vide order dated 09.10.2025 has handed over the management of Mid day meal to another group namely Pahal Group, Bilaspur.

In order to avoid recurrence of the incident that happened in Government Middle School, Mangla, the District Education Officer, Bilaspur has issued instructions to Block Education Officers, Block Resource Coordinator and Cluster Coordinators along with for continuous monitoring of Self Help Groups of all the institutions running Mid-day Meal and to ensure that quality food is served to the children in the Mid-day Meal, vide order dated 25/09/2025. Further, the DPI has also been issued an instructions to all District Education Officers and Block Education officers to strictly compliance with the detailed instruction issued by Chief Secretary on 09-09-2025.

In view of the same, let the matter be listed for further monitoring on 10/12/2025.

In the meantime, considering the steps taken by the Chief Secretary to prevent any recurrence of incidents similar to those that occurred in government-

run institutions where the mid day meal is provided, we deem it appropriate that the Court Commissioner may inspect the districts of Bilaspur and Raigarh and submit a report whether the arrangements are in proper order.

SD/-

(Bibhu Datta Guru)
Judge

SD/-

(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice

Amardeep