



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPPIL No. 75 of 2023

IN THE MATTER OF SUO MOTO PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION
versus THE CHIEF SECRETARY

Order Sheet

17/12/2025	<p>This is an office reference.</p> <p>Heard Mr.Ishan Verma and Mr.Amiyakant Tiwari, learned Court Commissioners. Also heard Mr.Vivek Sharma, learned Advocate General with Mr.Yashwant Singh Thakur, learned Additional Advocate General appearing for the State, Ms.Annapurna Tiwari, learned Central Government Counsel for the Union of India and Mr.Ashish Tiwari, learned counsel appearing for the Municipal Corporation Bhilai-Charoda.</p> <p>In compliance of the Court's order dated 15.12.2025 the Chief Secretary, Government of</p>

Chhattisgarh, Raipur has filed his personal affidavit which is reproduced hereinbelow:-

“1. That, the deponent hereby files the present affidavit in compliance of the order dated 15/12/2025 passed by the Hon'ble Court.

2. That, vide order dated 15/12/2025, the Hon'ble Court was pleased to direct the deponent here to file his personal affidavit with regard to the news report appearing in Daily Newspaper "Haribhoomi" Bilaspur dated 14/12/2025 titled as "Madhyanh Bhojan Ke Bad Bigadi Bachcho Ki Tabiyat".

3. That, the deponent most humbly and respectfully submits that according to the news report, in Government Middle School Chaurabhantha, the Mid-Day-Meal resulted into the food poisoning of the students. 25 children have been admitted in the hospital after consuming the mid-day-meal. The said news item further reveals that the children reported of stomach ache and vomiting after which the School Administration immediately admitted the students in the Community Health Centre, Nawagarh District Janjgir Champa (CG).

4. That, in compliance of the order dated 15/12/2025 passed by the Hon'ble Court, the deponent most humbly and respectfully submits that the incident reported in the said Newspaper occurred on 13/12/2025 in Government Middle School Chaurabhantha Block Nawagarh District Janjgir Champa (CG.). It is respectfully submitted that the present strength of the Government Middle School Chaurabhantha is 75. It is submitted that on the date of incident, 52 students were present and in the mid-day-meal prepared by the Rahul Woman Self Help Group. Chaurabhantha, the meal "Kheer and Puri was served to the students. It is submitted that after consuming the said meal, the students complained of stomach-ache and vomiting. Upon such complaints being made by the students, the ambulance was immediately called and 25 students were immediately sent to the Community Health Centre, Nawagarh where they were admitted. It is respectfully submitted that the admitted students were immediately given medicine for stomach -ache and vomiting. 4 students reported of developing fever who were kept under observation in the hospital

and other 21 students were discharged from the Community Health Centre, Nawagarh after final examination the doctors finding them fit. It is respectfully submitted that 1 student was discharged next date on 14/12/2025 and remaining 3 students were also discharged from hospital on 15/12/2025. It is respectfully submitted that all 25 students have been discharged from hospital after they were examined by the doctors and found them to be fit medically. To demonstrate this fact, copy of the medical report of the students is filed herewith as **Annexure A/1**.

5. That, the deponent respectfully submits that looking to the gravity of the incident occurred in the school, vide order dated 15/12/2025, the Head Mistress of Government Middle School Chaurabhantha namely Smt. Kiran Lata Sharma has been suspended and attached in the office of the Block Education Officer, Nawagarh District Janjgir Champa (CG). Copy of the order dated 15/12/2025 is being filed herewith as **Annexure A/2**.

6. That, the deponent further respectfully submits that the Mid-Day-Meal Incharge of

the said school namely Shri Jageshwar Singh, Teacher (LB) has been issued with the show cause notice calling upon the explanation on the said incident occurred in the school to which he has submitted his explanation and after considering the said explanation submitted by the said Teacher, vide order dated 15/12/2025, the punishment of withholding of two annual increments with non cumulative effect has been imposed upon the said teacher. Copy of the order dated 15/12/2025 is being filed herewith as **Annexure A/3**.

7. That, the deponent respectfully submits that vide order dated 15/12/2025 Rahul Woman Self Help Group Chaurabhantha which was managing the mid-day-meal in the school, has immediately been disassociated from the work of preparation of mid-day-meal in the said school taking into consideration the incident occurred in the school and to continue the same in the school, the responsibility of preparation of mid-day-meal has been given to one Shubharanbh Woman Self Help Group,Chaurabhantha. Copy of the order dated 15/12/2025 is being filed herewith as

Annexure A/4.

8. It is respectful submission of the deponent that a follow-up medical examination/check up has been conducted of all 25 affected students by a team of Medical Officer on 16/12/2025. The said team of Medical Officer, after examination of all the students, has issued the fitness certificates of the said students. Copy of the fitness certificate is being filed herewith as

Annexure A/5.

9. It is respectfully submitted by the deponent that in order to avoid such incident in future in the schools, the District Education Officer, District Janjgir Champa has immediately issued the notice to the management of Government Middle School Chaurabhantha to ensure compliance of the guidelines dated 25/09/2025 issued by the Department of School Education dated with respect to the preparation of mid-day-meal in the school. Copy of the letter dated 15/12/2025 is being filed herewith as **Annexure A/6.** In the said letter, a deadline of one week has been given to ensure compliance. Further, it is respectfully submitted that a direction has also been

issued to all the Head Masters of the Schools of District Janjgir Champa engaged in preparation of mid-day-meal to ensure strict compliance of the guidelines issued by the Department of School Education dated 25/09/2025. Copy of the letter dated 15/12/2025 is filed herewith as **Annexure A/7**.

10. That, the deponent most humbly and respectfully submits that from the aforesaid it appears that the issue in hand has been immediately taken care of by the authorities of the School Education department and all the affected students have been given medical treatment at Community Health Centre Nawagarh and as of now, all the affected students are fit medically.

11. That, the contents of this affidavit have been drafted according to my instructions and the contents thereof are true and correct to the best of my personal knowledge and based upon the official records.”

A bare perusal of the affidavit shows that the Head Mistress of Government Middle School, Chaurabhantha has been suspended after 25 students

fell ill upon consuming the Mid-Day Meal and were admitted to the hospital. Further, the Self Help Group who was responsible for providing the Mid-Day Meal has been changed.

Mr. Amiyakant Tiwari, learned Court Commissioner, has drawn the attention of the Court towards the affidavit filed by the Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur, dated 17.10.2025, wherein the procedure for checking the quality of the Mid-Day Meal provided under the Madhyanh Bhojan Niyam, 2015 has been prescribed. He has further referred to the circular dated 25.09.2025 issued by the Director, Public Instructions, Chhattisgarh, a copy of which has been annexed as Annexure D-8, and which has been circulated to all the District Education Officers of the State of Chhattisgarh, containing the directions issued therein. He further drew attention to Clause 2 of the said directions and stated that though directions/guidelines have been provided for checking the distribution of the Mid-Day Meal, the same must be

followed in its true spirit so that no further such incident takes place.

Learned Advocate General, who is present today and has assisted the Court in the matter, has assured that the State will take all possible steps to ensure that no such incident occurs in future.

In view of above, the Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur is directed to file a fresh affidavit in this regard on or before the next date of hearing informing this Court regarding the progress of health of 25 children who had fallen ill after taking the Mid-Day-Meal on 13.12.2025 and also whether the State has given any monetary compensation to them.

List this matter on **21st January, 2026** as has been ordered by this Court on 10.12.2025.

Sd/-

(Bibhu Datta Guru)
Judge

Sd/-

(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice