

**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

09/01/2026	<p>This is an office reference.</p> <p>Heard Mr.Amiyakant Tiwari and Mr.Ishan Verma, learned Court Commissioners. Also heard Mr. Praveen Das, 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>The matter was listed on 05/01/2026 pursuant to</p>

the news item published in the news paper Dainik Bhaskar Bilaspur dated 03/01/2026 with regard to “*bitting of Dog to the Student and two teachers after entering into the school premises*”. On the said date, the Secretary, School Education Department, Government of Chhattisgarh was directed to file his personal affidavit with respect to the news item. Further, the Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur was also directed to file his personal affidavit pursuant to the order dated 17.12.2025 passed by this Court.

Pursuant to the above, an affidavit has been filed by the Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, Department of School Education, Mantralaya, Mahanadi Bhawan, Nawa Raipur, District Raipur (CG) relevant portion of which reads as under:

3. That it is most respectfully submitted that the unfortunate incident occurred at PM Shri Prathmik Shala, Khamtarai, Block Bilha, wherein on 02.01.2026, at about 08:20 A.M., one stray dog entered the school campus and bit a student. The said dog also bit two lady teachers who attempted to intervene and rescue the child.

4. That immediately after the incident, prompt intimation was given to the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur, pursuant to which a team of the Municipal Corporation promptly reached the school premises, apprehended the stray dog, and took it into custody.

5. That the injured student namely; Sawan Laskar, along with the injured teachers Smt. Sita Kashyap and Smt. Shalini Tiwari, were immediately rushed to the Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences (CIMS), Bilaspur, where prompt medical treatment was provided. They were administered anti-rabies vaccination, and it is ensured that the complete prescribed course of anti-rabies vaccine and other preventive treatment shall be duly administered.

6. That it is respectfully submitted that both the injured teachers and the student are recovering well from the bite injuries and are presently in good health. The student Sawan Laskar and Smt. Shalini Tiwari are recovering at their respective residences, whereas Smt. Sita Kashyap has already resumed her duties at the said school.

7. That the unfortunate incident occurred as the school campus is enclosed by a boundary wall on three sides, whereas one side of the campus was open, which facilitated the entry of the stray dog on the said day. A letter issued by the Head Master PM

*Shri Prathmik Shala, Khamtarai, Block Bilha to Commissioner Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur,, regarding the incident and preventive measures taken thereafter, is collectively annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE A/1.***

*8. That letter has been issued to the Commissioner Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur, as well as to all Janpad Panchayats and Nagar Panchayats, to ensure proper securing of school campuses/compounds so as to safeguard students and teachers and to minimize the risk of entry of stray animals into school premises. Copies of the relevant communications are collectively annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE A/2.***

Further the affidavit of Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, Mantralaya, Mahanadi Bhawan, Nawa Raipur, District Raipur (CG) has also been filed and the relevant portion of the same reads as under:

4. That it is most respectfully submitted that 25 students had fallen ill after consuming the Mid-Day Meal on 13.12.2025. Prompt action was taken against the concerned Mid-Day Meal In-charge as well as the Women Self Help Group managing the Mid-Day Meal in the said school. Disciplinary

proceedings have been initiated against the concerned teacher and the Women Self Help Group has been immediately removed from preparation of Mid-Day Meals in the said school.

5. That all the 25 affected children were subjected to medical examination by a team of Medical Officers and certificates to that effect were issued, which formed part of the affidavit earlier filed by the deponent.

*6. That with respect to the progress of health of the 25 children, it is most respectfully submitted that their health condition has been continuously monitored by the District Administration as well as the School Education Department. It has been found that all the children have fully recovered and are presently in good health. The latest medical status report is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE A/1** for kind perusal of this Hon'ble Court.*

7. That it is the bounden duty of the State to safeguard the health and well-being of children, and all possible efforts were made to provide timely medical treatment and to ensure complete recovery of the affected students.

8. That the deponent further assures that stringent preventive measures have been taken to ensure that such incidents do not recur in future. Copies of relevant instructions and documents in this regard are collectively annexed and are part of record of earlier affidavit dated 16/12/2025.

9. That with respect to the observation of this Hon'ble Court regarding monetary compensation, it is most respectfully submitted that the State ensured complete and best medical treatment to all the 25 affected students and the entire cost of treatment was borne by the State. Neither the children nor their parents were subjected to any financial burden on account of the said incident.

Perusal of the aforesaid affidavit goes to show that 25 children who had fallen ill because of consuming the mid-day meal on 13.12.2025 pursuant to which the self help group was removed from preparation of mid day meals in the said school and further the action has also been taken against the Headmistress of the said school and as on today all the children have fully recovered and

are presently in good health.

Be that as it may, considering the fact that the State has failed to take precautionary measures while providing mid day meal to the children, we deem it appropriate that for proper nutrition and taking care of the same, the State shall pay an amount of Rs.5000/- to each of the 25 students who had fallen ill.

Mr. Amiyakant Tiwari, learned Court Commissioner has submitted that for better nourishment of the student through mid day meal he suggests that in the places i.e. Durg and Bilaspur the Central kitchen has been established and no such incident has recorded to be taken place, therefore, the State may be directed to take immediate action for establishing the Central kitchen. A report has also been submitted by Mr. Amiyakant Tiwari, learned Court Commissioner dated 07/01/2026 and he submits that the same may also be taken into consideration by the State.

The suggestion which is being given by the learned Court Commissioner shall be brought on record and a

copy of the same shall be provided to the learned State counsel before the next date of hearing.

In view of the above, let this matter be listed on **21st of January, 2026** for further monitoring of the issue and by which date the Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, Mantralaya, Mahanadi Bhawan, Nawa Raipur, District Raipur (CG) shall file its personal affidavit regarding establishment of Central Kitchen and shall also answer the report dated 07/01/2026 filed by the learned Court Commissioner as also the suggestions of the learned Court Commissioner. Through the affidavit, the Chief Secretary shall also inform this Court with respect to payment of Rs. 5000/- to each of the affected children.

SD/-

(Arvind Kumar Verma)

Judge

SD/-

(Ramesh Sinha)

Chief Justice

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