



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPIL No. 58 of 2019

SANJAY RAJAK *versus* STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

WPIL/63/2019

Order Sheet

04/10/2024	Heard Mr. Sunil Otwani and Mr. Amit Soni, learned counsel for the petitioner in WPIL No. 58 of 2019 and Mr. Palash Tiwari, learned counsel for the petitioner in WPIL No. 63 of 2019. Also heard Mr. Yashwant Singh Thakur, learned Additional Advocate General, appearing for the respondents/State, Mr. Dhiraj Kumar Wankhede, learned counsel appearing for respondent/ NHAI, Mr. Tushar Dhar Diwan, learned Central Government Counsel, appearing for the respondent/ UOI, Mr. Pankaj Agrawal, Mr. Abhyuday Singh, Ms. Shruti Prammar holding brief of Mr. A.S. Kachhawaha, Dinesh Yadav holding brief of Mr. Anuroop Panda, Ms. Gunja Taram holding brief of

Dr. Sudeep Agrawal, learned counsel for the respective respondents and Mr. Rajkumar Mishra, intervenor in person, appearing through video conferencing.

In compliance of the Court's order dated 23.09.2024, today, an affidavit has been filed by the Superintending Engineer, N.H. Zone, Public Works Department, Raipur. Operative portion of the said affidavit reads as under :

"3. It is most humbly submitted that in compliance of the Hon'ble Court's order dated 23.09.2024, the Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh convened a meeting on 27.09.2024 along with representatives of the Department of Panchayat and Social Welfare, Department of Urban Administration and Development, Department of Public Works, NHAI and the Collector and Superintendent of Police, Bilaspur and Raipur, representatives of Union of India, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways & NHAI.

4. That, in the meeting dated 27.09.2024 it was resolved that the Department of Public

	<i>Works will send recommendations to the Central Government for effective control of stray cattle on the roads. Bilaspur would be treated as center and the roads such as Bilaspur-Korba, Bilaspur-Janjgir, Bilaspur-Raigarh, Bilaspur-Raipur, Bilaspur-Mungeli will be enmarked which are Gram Panchayat. The District Administration, Department of Panchayat and Department of Animal Husbandry will form a joint team to survey the cattle in the area and commence tagging of the animals. Efforts would be made for behavior change of the owners of the cattle. In places where the cattle gather on the road or there is accident due to cattle there would be volunteers who would inform the issue to the concerned authority. The District Administration would form team for removal of animals from the road and transferred them to an appropriate place. It was also resolved to search for places which can be used by the animals. The Government of Chhattisgarh has decided to establish Cow Sanctuaries in various districts and in the meeting dated 27.09.2024 it was decided to expedite the process of establishment of Cow</i>
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Sanctuaries and for implementation of the scheme it was resolved to develop a mobile application where complaints can be registered of presence of stray cattle.

5. That, in the meeting dated 27.09.2024 the Department of Animal Husbandry has informed that 63 private Gaushalas have been given additional financial aid of Rs. 3.15 crores to build shed in their Gaushalas. An amount of Rs. 5 lacs in addition to 20 lacs has been granted to the Gaushalas. Copy of minutes of meeting dated 27.09.2024 is filed herewith as ANNEXURE X-1.

6. It is respectfully submitted that after the meeting dated 27.09.2024 the District Administration along with other stakeholders have swung into action and have started patrolling the Highways. Even the Municipal Corporation has enhanced its team and the cattle are being removed from the road even during night hours. Responsible officers of various stakeholder Department have also been put into action and with additional resources the cattle are being removed from the roads and the Highways. The action of

the authorities have found place in news items and have been published. Copies of news items are being filed herewith as ANNEXURE X-2.

7. It is respectfully submitted that serious action is being taken at various levels for controlling the menace of stray cattle on the roads. Compare to earlier days, the presence of stray cattle on the roads have reduced. The District Administration has also decided to take action against owner of the cattle if he/she is identified. The State and its instrumentalities are making all sincere efforts to control the menace of stray cattle.”

Mr. Wankhede states that affidavit on behalf of NHAI is under preparation and it would be filed soon. He is directed to serve copy of the same to learned Additional Advocate General, who may take necessary action as may be required in pursuance of the affidavit filed by the NHAI.

From perusal of the present affidavit, it transpires that there are 63 private Gaushalas, which have been given some additional financial aid. It is further

submitted that a meeting has been called by the Chief Secretary of the State of Chhattisgarh on 27.09.2024 of stakeholders of the various departments to curb the menace of stray cattles from the road, but from the affidavit which has been filed today, we do not see any immediate solution to the problem, hence, we again grant the Chief Secretary of the State of Chhattisgarh time to seek necessary assistance from all the stakeholders and come with the road map for immediate solution of the said problem.

Let these matters be again listed on **23.10.2024**.
The Chief Secretary, State of Chhattisgarh as well as NHAI are directed to file fresh affidavits regarding monitoring and steps taken by the them in this regard.

Sd/-
(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)
Judge

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice