



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPIL No. 58 of 2019

SANJAY RAJAK *versus* STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

WPIL/63/2019

Order Sheet

25/11/2024	Heard Mr.Sunil Otwani, learned counsel for the petitioner in WPIL No.58 of 2019 and Mr.Palash Tiwari, learned counsel for the appellant 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 the respondent/NHAI, Ms.Anmol Sharma, learned Central Government Counsel for the respondent/UIO, Mr.Pankaj Agrawal, Mr.A.S.Kachhawaha, Dr.Sudeep Agrawal, Ms.Harneet

Kaur Khanuja, learned counsel holding the brief of Mr.Sourabh Sharma, learned counsel appearing for the respective respondents and Mr.Ramakant Mishra, learned counsel appearing for the Intervener.

In compliance of the Court's order dated 23.10.2024, the Chief Secretary of the State has filed the affidavit which states as under:-

“1. That, vide order dated 23.10.2024 the Hon'ble Court was pleased to order the Chief Secretary, State of Chhattisgarh to file fresh affidavit regarding monitoring and step;s taken to curb the cattle menace on the Highways and the roads of the District of the State.

That in compliance of the Hon'ble Court's order, the Division-wise Survey report was called from the Divisional Commissioners of the State. The Divisional Commissioners of Raipur, Bilaspur, Durg, Bastar and Surguja submitted a detailed Survey Report. The Survey Report consists of number of Gram Panchayats and Municipal Bodies situated beside roads

	having substantial traffic. The report also consists of the number of domestic cattle and number of stray cattle in those Gram Panchayats and Municipal Bodies. The Government agencies had conducted meetings with the owners of the cattle to educate and sensitize them about the menace the stray cattle. The number of such meetings organized has also been included in the Survey Report. According to earlier proposal given places were enmarked for cleaning and leveling of places beside the road for resting of stray cattle, Number of such enmarked places have been included in the Survey Report. According to earlier proposals, authorities were given with responsibility of removing stray cattle from the road. Number of such officers were also included in the Survey Report. It also included the number of volunteer group operating in each district for removing of cattle. The object of the survey was to plan for effective control of stray cattle and effective management of the menace of stray cattle. Copy of report submitted by the Divisional Commissioner of Raipur, Bilaspur,
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	Durg, Bastar and Surguja are filed herewith collectively as ANNEXURE X/1. 2. That, the interveners in the instant petition have also submitted certain suggestion to curb the menace of stray cattle in the State. That vide letter dated 24.10.2024, the Department of Animal Husbandary was directed to submit its opinion and plan on the suggestions submitted before the Hon'ble Court along with their own opinion. The Department of Animal Husbandry after discussion with the stakeholders has submitted its opinion and action plan. The Department has suggested several measures taking into account, the similar issue in other States of the Country, owners of the Gaushalas and other stakeholders. In its report, the Department has suggested that under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, there should be provision for employing cattle-herder for every 50 cattle. It has also been suggested that the land for grazing in the villages has been encroached upon, therefore, it is necessary to remove the encroachment on the lands enmarked as "Charagah". It has been suggested that
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	“Gothan” has already been established in all the Gram Panchayats and Municipal Councils. The Gothan should be used for rehabilitation of stray cattle. It has also been suggested that the grant of Rs. 20,00,000/- granted to Gaushalas should also be allotted with 10 acres of land to provide the cattle with grass. A copy of opinion and proposed interventions submitted by the Department of Animal Husbandry is filed herewith as ANNEXURE X/2. The state will takes steps to act up on the suggestions as per availability of resources. 3. That, a meeting of all the stake-holders was convened on 07.11.2024 to review the action taken by the stake-holders as proposed in the earlier meetings. In the earlier meetings it was decided to enmark the area and stretches in the Highways where there is regular presence of stray cattle. In the process 978 Gram Panchayats have been enmarked and 5 stretches of the road have been enmarked. 23,241 stray cattle have been shifted to Gaushalas and Gothans. 17,268 cattle have been tagged
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and 36051 cattle have been placed with radium-belt. Cattle have been shifted by various Municipal Councils with the aid of Cowcatches. 627 Janchopal have been organized to educate and subsidize the people of the menace of stray cattle. Non-Governmental Organizations have also been engaged for the purpose. A six member committee consisting of various stakeholders has been constituted to draft a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for dealing with the menace of stray cattle. The committee is to draft and submit the Standard Operating Procedure in the first week of December, 2024. Beside this, National Highway Authority of India has been directed to submit best practices from then other States of the Country by the next meeting. Minutes of the meeting dated 07.11.2024 is filed herewith as ANNEXURE X/3.”

It is stated by learned Additional Advocate General appearing for the respondents-State that the Committee has been constituted to examine the mechanism which has been adopted by the other

States of the Country with respect to curbing the menace of the stray cattle on the National Highways and the roads and the Committee has to submit its report in 1st week of December, 2024.

In view of above, let the matters be listed again on **16th December, 2024**.

Sd/-

(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)

Judge

Sd/-

(Ramesh Sinha)

Chief Justice

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