

**HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR****WPPIL No. 95 of 2024**

In the matter of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation  
(Tobacco products continue to be sold freely despite  
implementation of COPTA)

**Versus**

State of Chhattisgarh & Others

**Order Sheet**

<b>27/01/2025</b>	<p>Heard Mr. Prafull N. Bharat, learned Advocate General along with Mr. Shashank Thakur, learned Deputy Advocate General, appearing for the State/respondents. Also heard Mr. Samrath Singh Marhas holding brief of Ranbir Singh Marhas, learned counsel for Commissioner Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur / respondent No.10.</p> <p>In compliance of the Court's order dated 05.12.2024, an affidavit has been filed by the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Bilaspur.</p>

Operative portion of the said affidavit is reproduced hereinunder :-

*“3. At the outset, the deponent respectfully submits that, he is duty bound to follow all the directions and orders passed by this Hon'ble Court from time to time and is having deepest and highest regard of this Hon'ble Court and the orders passed by it. The deponent is leaving no stone unturned for effective implementation of COPTA, 2003 and is taking all possible measures to ensure compliance of the orders and directions of this Hon'ble Court in letter and spirit.*

*4. As regards for effective implementation of COPTA, 2003, the deponent submits that all steps and stern actions are being taken in the entire district of Bilaspur where the schools and colleges are running and in the vicinity of such schools and colleges, regular monitoring/ inspections are being done in order to avoid selling of cigarettes, gutkha and tobacco products and shops which are operative near school & colleges. They have been strictly warned not to sell tobacco products and*

*whenever found selling stern action is taken against them as per COPTA, 2003.*

*5. It is submitted that for effective implementation of COPTA, 2003, a meeting was again convened on 20/01/2025 by the District Level Coordination Committee [DLCC] wherein the authorities of different departments ie. Revenue, School Education, Health, Police, Municipal Corporation, Labour, Chief Executive Officer, Zila Panchayat were present. In the said meeting, the discussions were made with the authorities for effective implementation of COPTA, 2003 in light of order dated 05/12/2024, passed by this Hon'ble Court and instructions were issued for implementation of COPTA, 2003. They were asked to monitor that the use and selling of tobacco produces be avoided from offices, schools & colleges and were directed for taking all precautionary measures / steps to restrain the selling of tobacco products. The authorities were asked that banners, posters be displayed in public places for making people aware of the hazards of tobacco products and*

*conduct awareness programmes, seminars & training programmes. A copy of proceedings of DLCC dated 20/01/2025, is being filed herewith 25 ANNEXURE A-4.*

*6. That, in order to monitor the programmes, Nodal Officers have been appointed for making public aware of the ill-effects of tobacco products and for proper implementation of the provisions of COTPA. Several rallies are being organized with banners & posters through NCC & Scout Cadets making people aware of the ill-effects of the tobacco products. Copies of photos showing rallies with posters / banners are collectively filed herewith as ANNEXURE A-5.*

*7. The deponent respectfully submits that for effective implementation of COPTA, 2003, all concrete steps are being taken in order to save the children, youths & students from hazardous effects and serious threats of tobacco products.”*

Considering the issue involved in the present case with respect to the action being taken under

COPTA, 2003, we further wish to monitor the situation.  
Hence, let be listed again listed for further monitoring  
on the issue on 07.04.2025.

Sd/-  
**(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)**  
Judge

Sd/-  
**(Ramesh Sinha)**  
Chief Justice