



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPPIL No. 84 of 2025

IN THE MATTER OF SUO MOTO PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION
versus STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

Order Sheet

22/09/2025	This is an office reference. Heard Mr.Shashank Thakur, learned Deputy Advocate General appearing for the respondents/State. In compliance of the Court's order dated 13.09.2025, the Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur (CG) has filed his personal affidavit which is reproduced hereinbelow:- “1. That, the present affidavit is being filed in compliance of the order dated 13/09/2025 passed by the Hon'ble Court.



	2. That, the Hon'ble Court has registered the present Public Interest Litigation taking suo moto cognizance of the two new items published in "The Hitvada" dated 13.09.2025 with a heading (i) "Child dies at Anganwadi Center after electrocution" and (ii) "Child Dies of Electrocution". 3. That, vide order dated 13.09.2025 the Hon'ble Court was pleased to direct the deponent/Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh to file his personal affidavit with respect to the above two news items and the present affidavit is being filed in compliance of the Hon'ble Court's direction. 4. That, at the outset the deponent most respectfully submits that he has the highest regards and great respect of the lawful authority of the Hon'ble Court and it's orders, directions and instructions issued by this Hon'ble Court from time to time. 5. That, as far as the news items with respect to the death of a child in Anganbadi Center due to electrocution in Kondagaon District is concerned the deponent most respectfully submits that it is unfortunate that a minor lost his life, within the premises of Anganbadi Center in village Padeli in
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Kondagaon District. It is submitted that the office of the Assistant Electrical Inspector conducted an enquiry with respect to the death of the minor, wherein it has been found that the power supply line from the meter installed in the Anganbadi building was damaged due to the channel gate and as a result the electrical current was flowing in the channel gate, resulting in the unfortunate death of the minor child. Copy of the relevant pages of the report of the Assistant Electrical Inspector is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE D/1.**

6. That, it is submitted that the project officer of the Integrated Child Development Project, Kondagaon submitted a report with respect to the above mentioned incident. A copy of the report is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE D/2.** Taking cognizance of the above mentioned report of the project officer and taking note of the gross negligence, the Anganbadi Workers and the Anganbadi Assistant have been removed with immediate effect by order dated 11.09.2025. A copy of the order dated 11.09.2025 is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE D/3.** It is further submitted that the Anganbadi



	Supervisor, Mardapal 02 has been suspended on 11.09.2025. A copy of the suspension order dated 11.09.2025 is annexed herewith as <u>ANNEXURE D/4</u>. 7. That, the Director, Directorate of Women and Child Development vide memo dated 13.09.2025 has directed all the Collectors and the District Program Officers of Women and Child Development Department that all the electricity connection in the Anganbadi Centers and the government places in which the centers are being run should be safe and further it should be ensured that wiring and switches are safe so that no accident happens in the future. By the said memo it has further been directed that inspection should be carried out in all the Anganbadi Centers of the State and it should be certified that in all the centers the wiring is safe and concealed and further all the fittings are in proper order. A copy of the memo dated 13.09.2025 is annexed herewith as <u>ANNEXURE D/5</u>. 8. That, the Deponent most respectfully submits that the District Administration has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 1,00,000/- as ex-gratia on account of death of the minor
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	child, in favour of the bereaved family. Copy of the relevant documents with respect to sanction and payment of compensation/ex-gratia is annexed herewith as <u>ANNEXURE D/6.</u> 9. That, as far as the other news item with respect to the death of a child due to electrocution in village Kargikala, District-Gorella-Pendra-Marwahi is concerned, the Assistant Electrical Inspector after carrying out an investigation has submitted his report wherein, it has been clearly opined that the land owner namely Swaroop Singh Dhurv has taken a single phase connection from the Chhattisgarh State Power Company Limited, and was using a Jerk (Jhatka) Machine by which the AC power is converted into DC and the same was connected to the wired fencing in the entire periphery of his property. In the investigation it was found that the jerk machine which was being used was not in proper order and it was not in a position to convert the AC power current to DC and further the intensity of the current was also high resulting in the unfortunate death of the child. Since, the machine was used in an unauthorized manner the police
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has registered an offence under section 105 of the BNS vide FIR No. 154/2025 on 09.09.2025 against the land owner. Copy of the report of the Electrical Inspector is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE D/7**.

10. It is submitted that the Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company from time to time has issued direction with respect to prevention of accidents due to electrical lines or apparatus. Copy of the directions issued on 04.12.2020, 18.07.2023, 23.04.2025 are annexed herewith collectively as **ANNEXURE D/8**. In the said above mentioned letters various measures to prevent the accidents due to electrical lines/apparatus have been given and further directions have been given for regular monitoring of the electrical lines.

11. The deponent most respectfully submits that vide letter dated 20.01.2025, directions have been given to carry out inspections with respect to the laying of unauthorized lines or illegal connections so that the threat to life of human beings and wild animals may be minimized. A copy of letter dated 20.01.2025 is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE D/9**.

12. That, the deponent submits that the



	Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Limited has issued a memo dated 17.09.2025 wherein directions have been issued with respect to stopping the illegal use of electricity and for that it has been advised to carry out regular inspection and to lodge FIR against the arraying persons and several other direction have also been issued to minimize the accidents. Copy of the order memo dated 17.09.2025 is annexed herewith as <u>ANNEXURE D/10</u>. 13. That, the deponent most respectfully submits that a memo has further been issued on 18.09.2025 for discouraging the electricity theft and illegal and unsafe use of electricity. A copy of the memo dated 18.09.2025 is annexed herewith as <u>ANNEXURE D/11</u>. 14. That, the deponent most respectfully submits that vide another memo dated 18.09.2025 detailed instructions have been issued for the officers and the technical employees for minimizing the incidents arising out of electrocution and it has been advised to conduct safety parade in all the distribution centers regularly and in the said memo it has been further, advised to provide necessary training to the technical staff and
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monitoring of the electrical lines and the paraphernalia. Copy of the memo dated 18.09.2025 is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE D/12**. It is most respectfully submitted that the Chhattisgarh Power Distribution Company limited, vide its order dated 19.09.2025 has sanctioned an ex-gratia amount of Rs. 4 lakhs to the mother of the deceased child (Geetaram Sarthi). A copy of the order dated 19.09.2025 is annexed herewith as **ANNEXURE D/13**.”

Upon perusal of the affidavit, it appears that with regard to the news item concerning the death of a child due to electrocution at an Anganwadi Centre in Kondagaon District, appropriate cognizance has been taken. Based on the report of the Project Officer and in view of the gross negligence observed, the services of the Anganwadi Worker and the Anganwadi Assistant have been terminated with immediate effect by order dated 11.09.2025. Additionally, the Anganwadi Supervisor of Mardapal-02 has been placed under suspension with effect from the same date, i.e.,



	11.09.2025. Furthermore, the District Administration has sanctioned an ex-gratia amount of ₹1,00,000/- in favour of the bereaved family of the deceased minor girl. With respect to the second news item regarding the death of a child due to electrocution in Village Kargikala, District Gorella-Pendra-Marwahi, an inquiry was conducted by the Assistant Electrical Inspector. As per the investigation report, it has been clearly opined that the landowner, namely Swaroop Singh Dhurv, had obtained a single-phase electricity connection from the Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Limited and was operating a "jerk" (jhatka) machine, which is used to convert AC power into DC power. This machine was connected to the wired fencing surrounding the periphery of his property. The investigation further revealed that the machine in question was faulty and not functioning correctly, resulting in its failure to properly convert AC current into DC. Due to this malfunction, the intensity of the electric
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Bablu	current remained dangerously high, ultimately leading to the tragic death of the child. Since the use of the machine was unauthorized and posed a grave safety hazard, an offence has been registered against the landowner under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) vide FIR No. 154/2025 dated 09.09.2025. Additionally, the Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Limited, vide its order dated 19.09.2025, has sanctioned an ex-gratia amount of ₹4,00,000/- to the mother of the deceased child, Geetaram Sarthi. In view of above, let the matter be again listed for further monitoring on 7th November, 2025. <table><tr><td data-bbox="478 1344 1037 1568">Sd/- (Bibhu Datta Guru) Judge</td><td data-bbox="1037 1344 1372 1568">Sd/- (Ramesh Sinha) Chief Justice</td></tr></table>	Sd/- (Bibhu Datta Guru) Judge	Sd/- (Ramesh Sinha) Chief Justice
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