



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPIL No. 95 of 2025

IN THE SUO MOTO PUBLIC INTREST LITIGATION

versus

STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

Order Sheet

19.11.2025	This is an office reference. Heard Mr. Shashank Thakur, learned Deputy Advocate General, appearing for the State. Mr. Jitendra Nath Nande, learned counsel submits that he has filed an application being I.A. No.01/2025 to intervene in the matter stating that the applicants are members of the Gau Sewa Samiti, a registered organization engaged in cow protection and welfare since 2002, duly recognized and trained by the Veterinary Department. It is submitted that despite their

long-standing experience and continued involvement in vaccination, rehabilitation and management of cow shelters, their names have not been included in the recently constituted committee dated 06.10.2025. Considering their ground-level expertise and direct involvement in the subject matter, their intervention is sought to effectively assist this Court in addressing issues of cow protection, shelter management, and prevention of recurrence of such incidents.

Considering the grounds stated in I.A. No.01/2025, this Court finds that the intervention sought does not demonstrate any element of public interest but reflects a personal interest of the Applicants. Accordingly, the application for intervention stands rejected.

In compliance of the Court's order dated 27.10.2025, the Secretary, Livestock Development Department, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Naya Raipur (C.G.) has filed his personal affidavit, relevant portion of which, reads as under :-

"3. The deponent most respectfully submits that after the directions issued on 27.10.2025,

vide order dated 28.10.2025, two separate teams consisting of the officials of the department and Registrar of the Chhattisgarh Rajya Gow Seva Ayog were constituted for conducting a thorough inspection and enquiry with respect to the conditions of the cattles and the cattles house/shelter and other facilities, with respect to villages Sukulkari and Beltara respectively. It is further submitted that alongwith the order the prescribed format for submission of the report was also forwarded to the concerned team members. A copy of the order dated 28.10.2025 alongwith the copy of the prescribed format is enclosed herewith as ANNEXURE A/1.

4. That, pursuant to the order dated 28.10.2025 the team of three senior officials of the department conducted a spot inspection on 29.10.2025 in village Sukulkari. It is submitted that during the inspection the local villagers were also consulted and their statements were also recorded. On the date of inspection it was noted that in the cattle house in village Sukulkari, total 120 cattles were present which included 30 males and 90 females and the said counting of the cattles tallied with the numbers of the cattles which were kept in the temporary shelter on the first day. The Committee further noted that there is sufficient availability of the fodder and the clean drinking water for the cattles and also took note of the fact that the nearest Government Veterinary Hospital is three

Kilometer away and the veterinary doctors as well as the sub-ordinate staff regularly visit the temporary shelter home for cattles.

5. That, the deponent most respectfully submits that the members of the committee consulted with the local representatives as well as the cattle owners and found that on 08.10.2025, the two carcasses of the dead cattles were placed for post-mortem, however, the same could not be done as the dead bodies were completely decomposed. It was noted that body of both the cattles were properly disposed by the cattle owners. The deponent most respectfully submits that the post mortem of three other dead cattles were conducted on 15.10.2025 and the statement of the owners of these three cattles were also recorded. It was noted that the dead bodies were disposed off by the cattle owners in the government land near the temporary cattle shelter as per the prevalent traditions of the village. The committee came to the conclusion that no cattle kept in the temporary shelter place in Sukulkari has died.

6. The deponent further respectfully submits that the committee submitted a detailed report before the concerned authority wherein the details of the vaccination, proper medical treatment provided to the cattles from time to time has been mentioned. A copy of the inspection report alongwith the relevant documents with respect to the village Sukulkari is annexed herewith as ANNEXURE A/2.

	7. That, the second team constituted for carrying out inspection in temporary shelter (Mini Stadium in village Beltara) visited the temporary shelter on 29.10.2025. The committee noted that pursuant to the resolution passed by the Gram Panchayat with an object to save the crops from the stray cattles three rooms/halls of the Mini Stadium are being used as shelter house by the concerned Gram Panchayat. It is further submitted that the cattles kept in three rooms of the mini stadium and total 80 stray cattles have been kept. The committee noted that there is sufficient stock of fodder and provisions of safe drinking water as well as medical treatment of the cattles, there is one veterinary hospital in the same village in which one veterinary doctor, two assistant veterinary filed officer and one attendant are available there. It is further submitted by the committee that the doctors and subbordinate staff of the Veterinary Department are regularly visiting the temporary shelter house and carrying out necessary vaccination and treatment to the needy cattles. 8. That, the deponent most respectfully submits that it was informed by the villagers and local representatives to the committee that from 16.08.2025 to 29.10.2025, two cattles from temporary shelter died and the basis of the post mortem of dead cows, it was revealed that the death occurred on 02.10.2025 due to Dystocia and Endometritis & Septicemia and as far as dead calf is
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concerned it was opined that the calf died in the womb itself. It was further noted that one month prior to the inspection, three cattles belonging to private persons of the village had died and the dead body of these three cattles were disposed off as per the traditional system.

9. That, the deponent most respectfully submits that the temporary cattles shelter in the mini stadium, Beltara is administered and managed by the concerned Gram Panchayat, however the officials of the department are regularly visiting the temporary shelter for monitoring purposes and further for providing vaccination and treatment to the stray cattles. A copy of the details report submitted by the committee with respect to inspection carried out in village Beltara alongwith the relevant documents is annexed herewith as ANNEXURE A/3.

10. That, the deponent most respectfully submits that earlier in the affidavit it was submitted that the department of Livestock Development has accorded administration approval for establishment/setting up of Goudham/under the "Goudham Yojna" for conservation protection and settlement of the seized/stray cattles. It is submitted that pursuant to the said scheme the administrative sanction for setting up of 11 Goudhams has been given by the order dated 17.11.2025 and thereafter the C.G. Gaw Sewa Aayog has also issued necessary directions/orders in this regard. Copies of the

order dated 17.11.2025 as well as the directions/order issued by the C.G. Gaw Sewa Aayog are annexed herewith collectively as ANNEXURE A/4 (Colly).”

From a bare perusal of the affidavit, it transpires that pursuant to the directions of this Court dated 27.10.2025, two separate inspection teams were constituted, both of which conducted spot inspections in Sukulkari and Beltara on 29.10.2025 and submitted detailed reports indicating (i) the availability of fodder, water and regular veterinary supervision, (ii) the number of cattle housed in the temporary shelters, (iii) the cause and manner of disposal of the carcasses reported by villagers, and (iv) the absence of any cattle deaths inside the Sukulkari shelter, while noting two deaths in Beltara attributable to natural medical causes. The affidavit further discloses that administrative sanction has been granted for establishment of 11 Goudhams under the “Goudham Yojna” and corresponding directions have been issued by the C.G. Gau Sewa Aayog.

Having considered the affidavit filed by the

Secretary, Livestock Development Department, this Court is of the opinion that while the inspection reports and the preliminary steps taken by the authorities have been brought on record, a comprehensive and continued monitoring mechanism is essential to ensure that the remedial measures are effectively implemented on the ground. Accordingly, the Secretary, Livestock Development Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, is directed to file a further *personal affidavit* clearly detailing the progress made after the inspections conducted on 29.10.2025 in Sukulkari and Beltara.

The said affidavit shall specifically indicate:-

- (i) the steps taken pursuant to the findings of both enquiry committees, including improvement of infrastructure, sanitation, fodder storage, drinking water facilities and medical assistance in all temporary cattle shelters;
- (ii) the measures adopted to prevent recurrence of cattle deaths, including protocols for emergency veterinary response, periodic health checks, and

	maintenance of proper records; • (iii) the status of establishment of the 11 sanctioned Goudhams under the “Goudham Yojna”, along with timelines for completion, operationalisation, staffing and allocation of funds; • (iv) the monitoring framework put in place by the Department and the Gau Sewa Aayog, including the frequency of inspections, responsibility of local officers, and the system for reporting non-compliance; and • (v) the steps taken by the concerned Gram Panchayats in coordination with the Department for proper upkeep and humane management of temporary shelters at Sukulkari, Beltara, and similarly situated villages. The Secretary shall also disclose any lapses noticed during inspections, action proposed or taken against erring officials, and the long-term plan formulated by the Department for proper management, rehabilitation and protection of stray and sheltered cattle across the State.
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Let the case be listed for further monitoring on
19.01.2026.

Sd/-
(Bibhu Datta Guru)
Judge

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice