

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION NO. 133 OF 2007

Dr. Rajendra Sadanand Burma & Anr.Petitioners

Versus

The State of Maharashtra & Anr.Respondents

**WITH
CIVIL APPLICATION (ST) NO. 35428 OF 2013
WITH
CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 56 OF 2018
WITH
CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 57 OF 2018
WITH
CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 87 OF 2009
WITH
CIVIL APPLICATION NO.175 OF 2014
WITH
CIVIL APPLICATION NO. 59 OF 2008
IN
PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION NO. 133 OF 2007**

Mr. Sumit Kate i/b. Dr. Uday Warunjikar, for the Petitioner.
Mr. Anup Gilda, Senior Advocate (through VC) Dr. Ashish Satav.
Ms. Purnima Upadhaya – Collector Amravati,
Mr. Satyam Gandhi (CEO ZP Amravati)
Mr. Ashish Yerekar (Collector Amravati).
Ms. Sneha Dhawade (Executive Engineer RWS Division ZP Amravati)
Advocate Priyanka Kamble, under Secretary (Law) PHD Mumbai.
Advocate D. A. Dube a/w Advocate Y. R. Mishra a/w Advocate N. R. Prajapati a/w Advocate Sachidadand T. Singh, for Respondent No. 6 Union of India.
Mr. Arvind R. (Asst. Commissioner).
Mr. Anil N Dhas Under Secretary.

Mr. Prashant E. Doke, Under Secretary.
Mr. Rohit A. Tikhile (SDE RWSS ZP Amravati)
Mr. S. J. Khatkar (SDE, RWSS Chikhaldara ZP Amravati)
Mr. Machhindranath Shelke (Joint Secretary Tribal Development Department).
Mr. Pravinkumar Pansare (S.O) TDD.
Dr. Kirankumar Waghmare, Assistant Director, State Tribal Health Cell, PHD, Mumbai, is present.
Mr. B. V. Samant, Addl. GP a/w Ms. Pooja Joshi Deshpande a/w Mr. S. P. Kamble and Advocate R. Raghuwanshi, AGP for the State.

**CORAM : RAVINDRA V. GHUGE &
HITEN S. VENEGAVKAR, JJ.
DATE : 07th MAY, 2026**

P.C. :-

1. The learned Senior Advocate, Mr. Gilda, has informed us that a list of 33 villages, which are severely affected by shortage of drinking water, in view of the drought-like situation already prevailing in the backdrop of temperatures soaring to 46 - 47 degrees Celsius, has been handed over to the learned Addl. GP , Mr. Samant. A printout containing the details of all these villages (10 pages) is tendered to the Court and is marked as 'X-8' for identification.

2. The learned Senior Advocate, Mr. Gilda, as well as Dr. Ashish Satav, inform us that the situation resembles a drought in

most of these 33 villages. Human life, as well as cattle, are suffering for want of water. The learned Addl. GP submits, on instructions, that there are some villages wherein water is available through hand pumps. He tenders photographs before us pertaining to Dabia, Chikhaldhara, and Sawaria, all in Chikhaldhara Taluka. The photographs indicate that water is flowing from these taps on the siphoning principle, since there are elevated storage tanks which are filled with water.

3. We are faced with a contrasting situation. The learned Senior Advocate and a doctor, who has devoted his life to the tribal area, inform us that human life and cattle are in danger due to thirst. Per contra, the learned Addl. GP informs us, on specific instructions from four officers who are present in the Court Hall, that in some areas water is flowing through taps, and in some areas tankers are kept in readiness at the beck and call of the villagers. Any indication of need for water, is responded to by dispatching a tanker to supply water in the concerned village. Such tankers are paid for by the Water Supply Department of the district. No tribal resident is required to pay for such water. The Gramsevak and the BDO monitor the distribution of such water.

4. We hope that no human life or cattle shall go thirsty in all these 33 villages, as well as in the other villages, which may not have been enlisted and are stated to be around 300 in the Melghat Region.

5. We record that our concern is that each village be supplied with water during the challenging summer, when we are informed that temperatures in the Vidarbha Region may further soar to 48 degrees during the months of May and June.

6. We are listing these Petitions for considering the issue of water scarcity on **22nd June, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.**

(HITEN S. VENEGAVKAR, J.) (RAVINDRA V. GHUGE, J.)