

*Kavita S.J.*

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY  
ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION

WRIT PETITION NO.370 OF 2024

Rakesh Alopiprasad Varma & Ors., ...Petitioner

*Versus*

Union of India & Ors., ...Respondents

WITH

WRIT PETITION NO.4785 OF 2025

Society of the Missionaries of St.Francis Xavier & Ors., ...Petitioner

*Versus*

Union of India & Ors., ...Respondents

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Ms. Sudha Bharadwaj for Petitioner in WP 370/2024 and for Respondent Nos. 5 to 10 in WP 4785/2025.

Mr. Abhishek Joni i/b Ms. Shivani Shinde for Petitioner in WP 4785/2025 and for Respondent Nos.5 and 6 in WP 370/2024.

Mr. Abhijit Joshi a/w Mr. Ashutosh Misra for Respondent No.1 – Union of India.

Mr. Rakesh Pathak, AGP for Respondent Nos. 2 to 4 – State.

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CORAM : R.I. CHAGLA, AND  
ADVAIT M. SETHNA, JJ.

DATED : 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2026.

**ORDER :**

1. The learned AGP appearing for Respondent Nos.2 to 4 – State has sought for permission to file Affidavit-in-Reply to the above Writ Petition.

2. A similar request is made by the learned Counsel appearing for Respondent No.1 – Union of India. It is pertinent to note that by Order dated 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2026 these Respondents were given a last chance to file Affidavits-in-Reply to the Writ Petition, within a period of two weeks from that day.

3. By showing indulgence, a last opportunity is given to these Respondents to file their Affidavits-in-Reply, which shall be filed within a period of three weeks from today.

4. It is made clear that no further extension will be granted to the Respondents.

5. Respondent No.3 – Commissioner shall also produce communication dated 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 as directed by this Court vide Order dated 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2026 and which shall also form part of the Affidavits-in-Reply to the Writ Petition.

6. The Petitioners shall also file their Affidavits-in-Rejoinder on or before 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2026.

7. Place the Writ Petitions for consideration on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2026.

**[ADVAIT M. SETHNA, J.]**

**[R.I. CHAGLA, J.]**