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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
BENCH AT AURANGABAD**

1076 PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION NO. 21 OF 2024

**SYED SALEEM SYED ALI
VERSUS
UNION OF INDIA AND OTHERS**

....

Mr Sachin Deshmukh, Advocate for Petitioner;
Mr A. G. Talhar, DSGI for Respondent No.1
Mr A. B. Girase, G.P. a/w Mr M. M. Nerlikar, A.G.P. for
Respondents/State
Mr S. S. Thombre, Advocate for Respondent No.4
Mr P. P. Patni, Advocate h/f Mr A. S. Bajaj, Advocate for
Respondent No.5

**CORAM : RAVINDRA V. GHUGE
AND
Y. G. KHOBRADE, JJ.**

DATE : 11th June, 2024

PER COURT:

1. We have been considering this Public Interest Litigation over a period of four months. A serious issue is raised before us. As the Beed Municipal council is facing a severe financial crisis, the amount of Rs.36 Crores and odd towards electricity consumption charges, have not been paid by the Council to Respondent No.5/MSEDCL.

(2)

2. The learned Advocate Shri. Thombre, representing the Municipal Council, Beed, submits that the Council is in an extremely difficult financial condition. Taxes collected are being utilized for payment of salaries of the employees of the Council. Other development activities cannot be undertaken due to paucity of funds. He submits that the State Government will have to bail out the Municipal Council by shouldering the burden of the payment of the electricity charges to be paid to Respondent No.5/MSEDCL.

3. The issue is serious, for the reasons that the MSEDCL is refusing to provide an electricity connection to the Beed Municipal Council for pumping drinking water for the residents of the Beed City. Shri. Thombre submits that the water distribution system is in place and the available water could be supplied to the residents of the Beed City, if the MSEDCL supplies electricity to the raw water pumping station and the water treatment plant. Without the water being treated, it cannot be supplied to the residents. He draws our attention to a communication by the then Member of the Parliament Lok Sabha,

(3)

Beed, dated 09/01/2024, addressed to Shri. Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy Chief Minister, Maharashtra State, praying for clearing the outstanding dues towards the MSEDCL and direct the said Company to connect the electricity supply.

4. The learned Government Pleader submits that, he needs to take instructions, as to whether the State Government can shoulder a part of the outstanding electricity charges.

5. It can be visualized, as to what could be the amount of hardships suffered by the residents of the Beed City on account of the disconnection of the electricity supply to the water purification plant and the pumping station. The State Government will have to call for a brainstorming meeting of the concerned Authorities for resolving the said issue.

6. Therefore, we deem it appropriate to direct the Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department to call for a meeting of the District Collector, who is in-charge of the DPDC funds and the electricity company and any such Authority, which would assist the Government in resolving the said issue.

(4)

We also expect the Government to take a decision to clear some portion of the outstanding electricity charges and ensure that the electricity supply is connected for operating the purification plant and the water pumping station. Such steps need to be taken on priority.

7. It would also be appreciable if the Hon'ble Chief Minister of the State calls upon the peoples representatives of the various State Legislature Assembly Constituencies in Beed District, as well as the Member of the Parliament of Beed Constituency, to allocate Constituency Development funds for the purpose of clearing the outstanding electricity charges, which would result in the grant of the electricity connection to the distribution system and the purification plant, which would result in supplying potable water to the residents of the Beed City.

8. We would expect the learned Government Pleader to apprise us of any such decision that may be taken in the light of the suggestion set out herein above.

(5)

9. We also expect Respondent No.1/Union of India to consider granting of funds under the 'National Jal Jeevan Mission', operated by the Ministry of Jal Shakti through the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, since the Union of India has persuaded the Jal Jeevan Mission to ensure "हर घर जल".

10. List this Public Interest Litigation on 03/07/2024 at 4:30 p.m.

(Y. G. KHOBRADE, J.)

(RAVINDRA V. GHUGE, J.)

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