



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

SUO MOTO (PIL) NO. 8 OF 2020

The Registrar Judicial High Court Of Bombay Bench At Aurangabad
VERSUS
The State Of Maharashtra And Others

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Mr. Satyajeet S, Amicus Curiae for the Petitioner
Mr. A. B. Girase, GP for Respondent nos.1, 4, 5, 6 and 7
Mr. A. G. Talhar, Dy. Solicitor General of India for Respondent no.2
Mr. A. P. Bhandari, Advocate for Respondent no.8
Mr. K. N. Lokhande, Advocate for Respondent no.33
Mr. R. K. Ingole, Advocate for Respondent no.37
Mr. P. V. Ambade, Advocate for Respondent nos.43 and 44

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**CORAM : SMT. VIBHA KANKANWADI &
NEERAJ P. DHOTE, JJ.**

DATED : 15TH APRIL, 2026

ORDER :-

1. We have heard the learned Amicus Curiae as well as learned Government Pleader.

2. Learned Government Pleader has produced two affidavits, one is by Mr. Sanjay Vilas Shintre, the Deputy Inspector General of Police (Maharashtra Cyber), Mumbai and a member of the State level Special Task Force (STF) which came to be appointed under the orders of this Court and another is of Mr. Devidas Dagduba Tekale, the Joint Commissioner, Regional Directorate of Municipal Administration, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

3. In his affidavit Mr. Shintre, the Member of STF has stated as to what STF has done for identifying the manufacturing units. He states that up till now, 23 manufacturers in the State of Maharashtra are engaged in the production of synthetic fibres, such as Rayon, Tyre Cord, Partially Oriented Yarn (POY), Polyester Texturised yarn, Synthetic Thread, and Polyester Filament yarn. The STF has issued instructions through Maharashtra Pollution Control Board Authorities to the manufacturers and undertaking has been obtained from 7 such manufacturers that their products will not be used or will not be sold for any such illegal activities. Though seven manufacturers have submitted formal annual self declaration affirming to the authority concerned, we hope that in respect of rest of the manufacturers, the STF will take similar action.

4. As regards disruption of supply chains are concerned, he states that most of the Nylon Manja is transported through road transport and therefore the STF will co-ordinate with the road transport authorities, local self government bodies, highway police, transport associations and courier services providers. The affidavit in fact lacks the details as to how the STF would co-ordinate and how it will monitor on Regular basis with these authorities as regards the transportation is concerned.

5. In respect of seizures and prosecutions, he has stated that the police have intensified the enforcement drives across the State resulting in various F.I.Rs and seizures in the matter. Here we would state that mere lodging of the F.I.R. and taking up the prosecution will not suffice ultimate result till proof of the guilt. There has to be the seriousness on the part of police and the low conviction rate in such matters will ultimately result in non proper implementation of the policies and the law. The quality of prosecution should be highest and not the quantity only. Hope, the STF issues instructions to the police across the State as to what kind of evidence should be collected and how the prosecution should be taken to its logical end.

6. In respect of monitoring of online market places, he states that the Cyber Department has established a special mechanism for monitoring E-commerce platforms and is also conducting continuous surveillance drives. Again, it can be stated that the action taken report should not limit itself to this year but it should be a continuous process.

7. As regards the compensation framework is concerned, he states that the STF and the other departments are formulating a Robust Comprehensive Action Plan including registration of manufacturing

units, supply chain mapping and surveillance across the state and finalization of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for enforcement, surveillance and legal action.

8. In his affidavit, Mr. Tekale, who has filed the affidavit in his capacity on behalf of Urban Development Department which is exercising administrative control and supervision over Municipal Corporations and Municipal Councils, state that his department has issued letter and directed to all the Commissioners of Municipal Corporations and Chief Officers of the Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayats that information regarding the compliance of order passed by this Court on 09.01.2026 as well as on 18.03.2026 should be submitted to the Government. The Director of Municipal Administration has issued a letter dated 23.02.2026 to all the institutions then Environment and Climate Change Department has issued official Gazette dated 01.03.2023 designating authorized officers to implement Nylon Manja ban in Municipal Corporation and Municipal Council in their respective jurisdiction. Accordingly, the officers have been appointed. The duties as depicted in paragraph no.6 of the affidavit have been assigned to those officers. He also states that the large scale awareness programs have been implemented to demonstrate the said commitment to preventive

measures. Nineteen establishments were found possessing the prosecuted material in eight urban local bodies. He assures that the state would continue to maintain strict vigil to ensure that the Urban Local Bodies remain free of illegal sales.

9. Learned Government Pleader submits a communication dated 13.04.2026 given by the Secretary, Environment and Climate Change Department of Government of Maharashtra wherein as per the orders passed by this Court, steps have been taken. It is stated that the said department has drafted a preliminary draft of revised policy envisaging self explanatory speaking notification/modalities for more quality and to avoid overlapping mandates in earlier policy. The preliminary draft also addresses issue of victim compensation as per the order passed by this Court. By this letter, two months time has been prayed for finalization of the said policy.

10. Here, it is to be noted that we are again disturbed with the fact that even after giving strict order on 16.01.2026 regarding the payment of compensation to 11 victims viz. Dhuraji Wankhede, Sabir Shaikh, Sopan Dnyandev Gade, Mahesh Bhimrao Patil, Rushikesh Sanjay Waghmare, Anil Dhivar R/o Sambhajinagar, Ravi Waman Kajale, Narendra Shinde, Sayyad Ahmad, Shaikh Yasin and Tanvi

Sachin Waghmare, upon query, it has been told that the Government has not yet distributed the compensation amount to those persons. In that order also we had noted our dissatisfaction against the Government Authorities for not complying with the orders passed by this Court on 09.01.2026. It has been specifically observed “-- *We put the State machinery to notice that the amount of compensation will be enhanced with strictures against the authorities--*”. When it was noticed by us that the amount is not paid, thereafter also on 18.03.2026, when the further order was pronounced, till then also the payment was not complete, and upon query, the learned Government Pleader states that the said amount is not yet been given.

11. He places on record a communication by Additional Collector, Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar to Secretary, Government of Maharashtra dated 13.04.2026, thereby demanding the amount to be paid to those victims in view of our order. It is a sorry state of affairs that in spite of specific orders, the authorities would by time just by making demands. When the orders are passed in Public Interest Litigation, the Government should be serious. Now, as a last chance, we give time to the State Government to make the said payment. Payment of compensation to the 11 persons as per the order dated 16.01.2026

should be made on or before 04.05.2026. Failing which, Collector, Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar, Jalgaon, Ahilyanagar would be personally held responsible and they would be directed to pay cost from their pockets @ Rs.1,000/- per person per day till the amount is paid.

12. Since the Environment and Climate Change Department intends to come up with a comprehensive policy as well as the STF also wants to place on record the policy, we grant time. However, both of them should see that there is no overlapping or contrary provisions in the policies those are to be made. As regards the comprehensive policy, they should come up with fastening responsibility against particular officers/officials. When such Nylon Manja is found in spite of taking appropriate precautions and unwarranted incidents happen requiring payment of compensation, such stipulation will have to be included in such policy. The STF should also consider establishment of Special Task Force district wise or city wise, taking into consideration the size of the population, which would be then made responsible to implement the policy that would ultimately come up. The compensation need not be only from the State Exchequer but when the shops and establishments are under the Municipal Corporations as well as Municipal Councils as

the case may be, and shop Inspectors are appointed, then the policy should also put responsibility on such officers to check the shops and establishments, periodically. From the preliminary draft that has been annexed along with letter dated 13.04.2026, it can be seen that some attempt has been made to address these issues and we are hopeful that a fine and no nonsense policy would be framed giving clear indication that the State will not tolerate use of Nylon Manja which is hazardous. The policy and the next affidavits to be filed on or before 30.06.2026. Copy of the same be given to the other side in advance.

13. Place this matter for further consideration on 06.07.2026.

[NEERAJ P. DHOTE, J]

[SMT. VIBHA KANKANWADI, J.]