

Date of order: 18.03.2026

Coram:

Hon'ble Mrs. Justice Revati Mohite Dere, Chief Justice
Hon'ble Mr. Justice W. Diengdoh, Judge

Appearance:

For the Petitioner : Dr P. Agarwal, Adv.

For the Respondents : Mr K. Khan, AAG with
Mr N. Syngkon, GA
Mr J.N. Rynjah, GA

Pursuant to the order dated 2nd March, 2026, the State has filed an affidavit of Shri A.M. Sangma, Commissioner of Transport in the Transport Department, Government of Meghalaya.

2. Dr P. Agarwal, learned counsel for the petitioner states that the approach of the Transport Department right from the beginning has been extremely casual. She submits that despite the order dated 15th December, 2025 passed by this Court, no serious steps have been taken by the said Department with respect to the non-functional weighbridges. She submits that the direction vide order dated 15th December, 2025, was to complete the whole process within eight weeks, which has not been

complied with. She further submits that right from the beginning, the approach of the Transport Department has been lackadaisical, inasmuch as, there has been suppression of information with respect to the weighbridges and now, non-compliance of the direction of this Court. She further submits that even the CAG report records reluctance on the part of the Transport Department to provide information to the CAG authority and that the CAG report reflects a huge loss of revenue.

3. Mr K. Khan, learned AAG submits that the Transport Department has taken steps to ensure the repair of the weighbridges. Mr Khan relied on the report filed by way of an affidavit dated 17th March, 2026.

4. We may note, that this is a public interest litigation (PIL) drawing the attention of this Court to the alleged misconduct on the part of the Government officials in operating 28 weighbridges across the State. The allegation of the petitioner is that overloaded goods carrying vehicles are allowed to pass without proper weighment causing loss of revenue, fees and charges to the State. It appears from the orders passed by this Court that the State was directed to carry out an inquiry into the matter by inspection

of the weighbridges in the presence of the petitioner. The report submitted by the Transport Department shows that none of the 24 weighbridges, any overloaded truck was found to pass. It appears that the said statement made in the report of the Transport Department was vehemently opposed to by the petitioner. It was alleged by the petitioner that in the absence of required number of weighbridges in many places, there was illegality committed by Government officials at the 28 weighbridges which were operational. It was also alleged by the petitioner that officials were involved in causing overloaded goods vehicles to cross the weighment area without weighing the vehicles, with impunity, thus, causing loss to the Government exchequer to the tune of more than ₹600 crores.

5. Pursuant to the allegations made by the learned counsel for the petitioner post the filing of the report by the Transport Department, this Court constituted a three-member Committee. The scope of the Committee was to inspect the weighbridges and to submit its report. The said three-member Committee submitted its report to this Court. From the said report, it appears that out of 25 weighbridges, 6 weighbridges were non-

functional. It also appears that the said report was prepared by the three-member Committee on physical verification of the said weighbridges. As recorded in one of the orders, the report submitted by the three-member Committee supports the contention of the petitioner with regard to the data disclosed by the Transport Department regarding construction and functioning of weighbridges in the State and the loss of revenue by the Government. This Court noted that it is in the interest of the State Government that all weighbridges should be made functional at the earliest.

6. On 15th December, 2025, this Court in its order, in paragraphs 2 to 5 noted as under:

“2. The said affidavit has disclosed the steps that have been taken to identify a suitable place for the installation of weighbridges. It appears that in respect of East Jaintia Hills District of Ratacherra (Malidor), the weighbridge remained non-functional since September, 2024 and only on 20.11.2025, steps have been taken for repairing of entry and exit road of the weighbridge. A request was made to the Under Secretary to Serial No.4 Supplementary List Page 2 of 3 the Government of Meghalaya, Transport Department, as per the estimate received from PWD and it is assured that the weighbridge would be made functional after complete repair of the approach road.

3. We direct the Transport Department to complete the entire process for making the said weighbridge functional positively within eight weeks from date.

4. Insofar as the other weighbridges are concerned, there are discrepancies in the affidavit read with the earlier reports as pointed out by the learned counsel for the applicant. However, the latest report filed has clarified the shifting of the weighbridges and the present status of the weighbridges. Apparently, the Transport Commissioner has filed a report on 08.05.2025, which may not give a true representation of the state of affairs of all the weighbridges in the State, as would be revealed from the subsequent reports filed in this regard.

5. The State should be careful in filing reports and disclosing the steps taken with regard to functioning of the weighbridges, as well as repair or construction of regular weighbridges, as the case may be, in the report to be filed on or before the next date of hearing and all future proceedings.”

7. Today's affidavit-cum-report submitted by Mr A.M. Sangma, Commissioner of Transport in the Transport Department, Government of Meghalaya, shows that the Government vide letter dated 11th March, 2026, has instructed the Chief Engineer, Shillong to start the work pertaining to repair of Entry and Exit road of weighbridge located at Malidor Ratacherra. From the report, it further appears that as far as Wageasi weighbridge is concerned, tender was floated and the successful bidder was given a Letter of Acceptance which has been forwarded to the Government for its formal approval. From

the Letter of Acceptance dated 3rd December, 2025, it appears that the approval is still pending before the Government.

8. As far as Tikrikilla weighbridge is concerned, it appears that tender was floated for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of an electric lorry weighbridge at Tikrikilla weighbridge, West Garo Hills on 9th September, 2025 and that one Smti Adriana R. Marak, had emerged as the highest bidder. It further appears from the affidavit-cum-report that Smti Adriana R. Marak submitted an application which was received by the Transport Department on 4th February, 2026, i.e., Letter of Surrender and that the same has been intimated to the Government vide letter dated 4th February, 2026 alongwith a proposal for re-tendering of the said weighbridge. Thereafter, there has been no progress with respect to the same.

9. As far as Bajengdoba weighbridge is concerned, it appears that the tender was floated for the supply, installation, testing and commissioning of an electronic lorry weighbridge on 9th September, 2025, however, no tender bids were received. The same was intimated to the Government vide letter dated 12th

January, 2026 along with a proposal to re-tender the work. It thus, appears that although no tender bids were received way back in September, 2025, the Department had taken steps to intimate the Government only in January, 2026. Thereafter, there has been no progress.

10. As far as Saphai (Garampani) weighbridge is concerned, instruction to operationalise has been issued on 27th February, 2026 on receiving approval from the Government. Thereafter, there appears to be no progress. It further appears that the repair of Entry and Exit road of weighbridge located at Malidor Ratacherra, no work appears to have started there despite the said weighbridge being non-functional since 5th September, 2024.

11. From the several orders passed by this Court it appears:

(i) that prima facie there has been suppression by the Transport Department in providing information to this Court. The same is evident from the report filed by the Transport Department in this Court requiring the Court to appoint the three-member Committee which clearly dislodges what was stated by the Transport Department in its report;

(ii) that despite the order dated 15th December, 2025, no concrete steps have been taken by the said Department reflecting its lackadaisical attitude. Not even an application has been preferred by the Transport Department seeking extension of time to comply with the order passed by this Court dated 15th December, 2025; and,

(iii) the affidavit-cum-report filed on 17th March, 2026 reflecting the delay in ensuring that the weighbridges are made functional.

12. As noted above, non-functional of the weighbridges causes loss of revenue to the Government and as such, it is the duty of the Transport Department to ensure that the weighbridges are made functional at the earliest so that the interest of the State is well protected.

13. Considering the overall conduct of the Transport Department, we deem it appropriate to issue notice to the Commissioner, Transport Department as to why show cause notice should not be issued under the Contempt of Courts Act, having regard to what is stated aforesaid and having regard to non-compliance of the orders passed by this Court. Presently, we

make it clear that this notice issued is not a notice under the Contempt of Courts Act and whether or not notice ought to be issued under the Contempt of Courts Act, will be considered on the next date, after the Commissioner, Transport Department files his affidavit.

14. Stand over to **15th April, 2026.**

(W. Diengdoh)
Judge

(Revati Mohite Dere)
Chief Justice

Meghalaya
18.03.2026
"Sylvana PS"