

WPA(P) 139 of 2022
Sumitra Bhattacharyya (Neogi)
Vs.
The State of West Bengal & Ors.

With
WPA(P) 142 of 2022
With
CAN 1 of 2022
Mary Dutta & Ors.
Vs.
The State of West Bengal & Ors.

Ms. Susmita Saha Dutta
Mr. Niladri Saha
Ms. Madhurima Basu
... ... for the petitioners in WPA(P) 142 of 2022
Mr. S.N. Mookherjee, AG
Mr. A. Banerjee, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Anirban Ray, GP
Mr. Md. T.M. Siddiqui
Mr. Debasish Ghosh
Mr. Nilotpal Chatterjee
... ... for the State
Mr. Billwadal Bhattacharyya
Mr. Anish Kumar Mukherjee
... ... for the respondent no.2 in WPA(P) 142 of 2022
Mr. Sumit Ray
... ... for the W.B.S.E.D.C.L
Mr. Arindam Sen
Ms. Rinku Sen
Mr. Sagnik Bhattacharya
... ... for the WBSLSA

Learned Advocate General has filed the report in the form of affidavit on behalf of the respondent no.1 disclosing that the amendment is proposed in the West Bengal Victim Compensation Scheme, 2017 on the basis of National Legal Services Authority's (NALSA) Compensation Scheme for Women Victims/Survivors of Sexual Assault/other Crimes-2018 and that 100 per cent fund will be provided by the State Government in the Judicial Department in the present circumstances. Affidavit further reveals that for this purpose file has

been moved to the Finance Department of the State which is pending.

We expect that expeditious decision will be taken by the Finance Department.

Learned counsel for the petitioners has sought leave to implead the Finance Department. She is permitted to do so and take appropriate steps to serve.

Learned counsel for the WBSLSA has produced the order dated 3rd December, 2022 sanctioning a sum of ₹3,00,000/- as compensation in favour of the minor victim girl under the State Compensation Scheme in Englishbazar P.S. Case No.487 of 2022. It is pointed out that this relates to WPA(P) 142 of 2022. The West Bengal State Legal Services Authority is directed to make expeditious payment in pursuance to the sanction order dated 3rd December, 2022.

Learned counsel for the WBSLSA has also submitted that in respect of other incidents also expeditious steps for payment of compensation will be taken up and this Court will be informed about the same on the next date of hearing.

In the previous proceedings we had also noted additional issue raised by the learned counsel for the petitioners in respect of making adequate provision for electricity in the public streets and common areas in villages. The constitution of Committee for this purpose was suggested and today again the same issue has been raised.

Considering the submission, we constitute a Committee comprising of (1) District Magistrate of the concerned District/Block Development Officer, (2) Regional Manager of the Electricity Company/Zonal Manager of the Electricity Company, (3) Superintendent of Police of the concerned district or his representative and (4) Mr. Niladri Saha, learned Advocate (whose name has been suggested by counsel for the petitioner and agreed by all).

Learned counsel for the petitioners as also learned counsel for the Electricity Company are permitted to have a meeting with the learned Advocate General to finalise the modalities for inspection and action by the committee.

On experiment basis, we direct that the survey will be carried out by the Committee at the first instance in the villages falling in the District of Purulia and the report will be submitted before this Court on the next date of hearing.

The representative of the Electricity Company will also give the estimate of cost for providing electricity connection and also tentative consumption charges in respect of each of the villages.

List on 30th January, 2023.

(Prakash Shrivastava, C.J.)

(Rajarshi Bharadwaj, J.)