

IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA
[CIRCUIT BENCH AT PORT BLAIR]

WPA(P)/11/2024

Shri Indra Pal Singh

Vs.

The Union of India and others

Mr. Md. Tabraiz ... for the petitioner
Mr. Tulsi Lall ... for the UOI
Mr. Rakesh Kumar ... for the Administration
Mr. Arul Prasanth ... for the NTPC
Ms. Mandakini Ghosh
 [through virtual mode]
Mr. Sumit Kumar Sakthi ... for the respondent no.6

August 11, 2025
[AKB]
Item No.1

Supplementary affidavit used by the petitioner and the response used by the Administration to the said affidavit are taken on record.

Heard learned counsels for the parties.

At the outset, it is submitted on behalf of the sixth respondent that though the said respondent was initially proposed to be appointed as the bid process manager, subsequently the Administration decided to float/process the tender through the Administration itself and relieved the sixth respondent of such responsibilities.

Learned counsel submits that the sixth respondent, no longer being necessary party to this application, may be discharged.

In view of the changed situation absolving the sixth respondent from processing the bid, the sixth respondent is no longer a necessary or proper party to the present application. Its name may be expunged from the cause title of the application.

Certain issues have been raised on behalf of the petitioner in the supplementary affidavit filed by him. The issues have not been appropriately responded to by the Administration.

With regard to the installation of the 10 MW Diesel Generator, learned counsel for the Administration submits that the said generator shall be commissioned in place of the plant at Chatham which was closed down in order to provide space for the same and it is expected to be commissioned in the next 3 to 4 months.

This Court is surprised to find that the Central Electricity Authority had approved the proposal for purchase of 15 MW Diesel Generators (9 MW at Chatham Power House and 6 MW at Phoenix Bay Power House) during the year 2024. Despite such approval, the Lieutenant Governor turned down the tender process relating to the same with an observation that the Administration should opt for Green Energy. This Court fails to understand under what authority the Lieutenant Governor turned down the process despite the same being approved by the Central Electricity Authority.

It is expected that the Lieutenant Governor shall take necessary steps for materialization of the proposal approved by the Central Electricity Authority in order to resolve the present power crisis.

Learned counsel for the department submits that the department is exploring various ways and means to augment the supply of electricity as a stop gap arrangement till the tenders which are in the pipeline are floated and the 15 MW Diesel Generator commissioned.

The Administration undertakes to augment the shortage of around 3 MW from the existing hired power plant on account of breakdown of D. G. sets in one of the existing plants within a fortnight from date.

The existing power crisis in the islands is a cause of immense sufferance to the people at large. It is expected that the Administration shall take immediate and meaningful steps in order to resolve the issue.

A comprehensive report be submitted by the Administration on the adjourned date annexing relevant documents to indicate the steps taken by them to resolve the issue.

The Director (Power), Andaman and Nicobar Administration shall remain present before this Court on the adjourned date to apprise the Court of the situation as on that date and the steps taken by the authority to meet the same.

The matter shall appear on the second day of the next available Circuit Bench under the heading “To Be Mentioned”.

(Suvra Ghosh, J.)

(Md. Shabbar Rashidi, J.)