

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Writ Petition (Civil) No. 637 of 1998@@
CC

Centre for P.I.L. & Ors. ...Petitioner(s)

vs.

U.O.I. & Anr. ...Respondent(s)

Date :23/10/2002 This matter was mentioned today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE G.B. PATTANAIAK
HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE RUMA PAL
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE BRIJESH KUMAR

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Shanti Bhushan, Sr.Adv.
Mr. Prashant Bhushan, Adv.
M/s.Sanjay Pathak, Sanjeev K. Kapoor,
T K Naveen, Vishal Gupta, Advs.

For Respondent (s) Mr. N.N. Goswami, Sr.Adv.
Mrs. Binu Tamta, Adv.
Mr. S N Terdol, Adv.

UPON hearing counsel, the Court passed the following
O R D E R

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Whether a citizen has a right to information under Article 19(i)(a) of the Constitution of India and if so, the extent of such right is the subject matter of consideration in the present petition filed under Article 32 of the Constitution.

When the matter was listed earlier, it was represented to the Court by the Union of India that a Bill has already been prepared and is being introduced in the Lok Sabha called "Freedom of Information Bill 2000". The Government has been

taking time for last more than one year on the ground that the aforesaid Bill is likely to be passed by the Parliament. Today Mr. Goswami, learned Senior Counsel appearing for the Union of India, states that the Bill in question has been referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs

and there is every likelihood of the said Bill being introduced in the ensuing Winter Session of the Parliament. Even if such Bill is ultimately introduced, yet there may be a necessity for the Court to find out the extent of right that has been available to a citizen under Article 19(i)(a) of the Constitution and whether that right has been conferred under the Bill in question.

In the aforesaid circumstances, we direct that this writ petition be listed and heard in the second week of January 2003 But, irrespective of the fact whether the Bill in question is passed or not.

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(J.S. Rawat)
Court Master

(Suneet Bala Sharma)
Assistant Registrar