

ITEM NO.307

COURT NO.9

SECTION PIL

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(s) (Civil) No(s) .295/2012

S.RAJASEEKARAN

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(With appln.(s) for impleadment and directions and office report)

Date : 10/04/2015 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MADAN B. LOKUR
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE UDAY UMESH LALIT

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Krishna Kumar, AOR
Mr. Swetab Kumar, Adv.
Mr. B. Vinodh Kanna, Adv.

In IA Nos.2&3/15 Mr. L. Nageswara Rao, Sr Adv.
Ms. Kiran Suri, Sr. Adv.
Mr. S.J. Amith, Adv.
Dr. (Mrs.) Vipin Gupta, Adv.

For Respondent(s)
UOI

Ms. Pinky Anand, ASG
Ms. Madhavi Divan, Adv.
Ms. Sunita Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Ajay Sharma, Adv.
Mr. S.S. Rawat, Adv.
Mr. Tushar Bakshi, Adv.
Mr. R.R. Rajesh, Adv.
Mr. D. S. Mahra, AOR

Mr. Gaurav Aggarwal, Adv. (A.C.)

H.P. Mr. Suryanaryana Singh, AAG
Ms. Pragati Neekhra, AOR

Karnataka Mr. V.N. Raghupathy, Adv.
Mr. Parikshit P. Angadi, Adv.
Mr. Chinmay Despande, Adv.

Maharashtra Ms. Asha Gopalan Nair, Adv.
Mr. A.P. Mayee, Adv.

Meghalaya	Mr. Ranjan Mukherjee, Adv.
Manipur	Mr. Sapam Biswajit Meitei, Adv. Mr. Z.H. Isaac Haiding, Adv. Mr. Ashok Kumar Singh, Adv.
Mizoram	Mr. Pragyan Sharma, Adv. Mr. Heshu Kayina, Adv. Mr. P.V. Yogeswaran, Adv.
A&N Islands	Mr. K.V. Jagdishvaran, Adv. Mrs. G. Indira, Adv.
Puducherry	Mr.V.G. Pragasam, AOR Mr. S.J. Aristotle, Adv. Mr. Prabu Ramasubramanian, Adv.
Sikkim	Ms. Aruna Mathur, Adv. Mr. Yusuf Khan, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

Learned counsel for the petitioner seeks permission to withdraw IA Nos.2&3 of 2015 in Writ Petition(Civil) No.295 of 2012.

Permission granted.

IA Nos.2&3 of 2015 are dismissed as withdrawn.

We have heard learned counsel for the parties.

Keeping in mind that the number of deaths due to road accidents is said to be over 1,00,000 per year and the amount of compensation awarded by the insurance companies runs into hundreds of crores of rupees every year, the Committee has done some exemplary work and made recommendations which need to be seriously discussed and debated.

In fact, some of the recommendations made by the Committee were conveyed to the Transport Commissioner/Secretary of the Transport Department of all the States and Union Territories by a letter dated 23rd December, 2014.

Learned *amicus curiae* informs us that only a few of the States have responded to the proposed measures, but it is not clear whether these measures have been implemented or not.

Under these circumstances, keeping in mind the safety of people on the roads and the financial cost involved in not taking the matter with due earnestness, we direct the Secretary in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India to call a meeting of his counterparts in all the States and Union Territories within a period of six weeks from today, i.e., on or before 31st May, 2015 and to deliberate on the reports prepared by the Committee as well as the recommendations made by the Committee and to discuss threadbare the issues raised by the Committee from time to time, means of implementation and further measures that can be taken.

The minutes of the deliberations of the meeting to be convened by the Secretary will be placed on the record of this Court and will also be handed over to the Committee well before the deadline proposed by the Committee, i.e., 30th June, 2015.

We have been informed by learned *amicus curiae* that given the importance and significance of the task involved, the facilities that have been made available to the Committee are extremely inadequate.

As mentioned above, we have been informed that more than 1,00,000 people suffer death due to road accidents every year and the claims that are settled by the insurance companies for these deaths run into hundreds of crores of rupees every year and in any case, very large and enormous sums. Under these circumstances, we fail to understand why the Central Government is unable to provide adequate facilities to the Committee, which is doing exemplary work and if the recommendations of the Committee are implemented in letter and spirit, not only will the number of deaths be brought down drastically but the compensation payable by the insurance companies will also reduce by several crores of rupees.

Learned counsel for the Union of India says that she will take up the matter seriously with the concerned Ministry particularly keeping in mind the letter sent by the learned Attorney General on 19th December, 2014 to the Revenue Secretary and the Urban Development Secretary.

List the matter on 24th April, 2015 to await a response from the Union of India.

(SANJAY KUMAR-I)
COURT MASTER

(TAPAN KUMAR CHAKRABORTY)
COURT MASTER