

Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s).406/2013

RE-INHUMAN CONDITIONS IN 1382 PRISONS

(WITH APPLN. (S) FOR exemption from filing O.T. and extension of time FOR FILING A MANUAL OF PRISONS and intervention and recalling OF COURT'S ORDER DATED 04.04.2016 AND SEEKING WAIVER OF COST IMPOSED AND SEEKING WAIVER OF COST ON BEHALF OF U.T. OF ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS)

Date : 02/05/2017 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON&amp;#39;BLE MR. JUSTICE MADAN B. LOKUR

HON&amp;#39;BLE MR. JUSTICE DEEPAK GUPTA

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

For Petitioner(s)

By Post

For Respondent(s) Ms. V. Mohana, Sr. Adv.

Mr. R.M. Bajaj, Adv.

Ms. Binu Tamta, Adv.

Ms. Sushma Suri, AOR

Mr. B.K. Prasad, Adv.

Ms. Sushma Manchanda, Adv.

Mr. Pankaj Pandey, Adv.

Mr. M.K. Maroria, Adv.

For States of

Andhra Pradesh Mr. Guntur Prabhakar, Adv.

Assam Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, Adv.

Mr. Sayooj Mohandas M., Adv.

Bihar Mr. Rudreshwar Singh, Adv.

Mr. Gautam Singh, Adv.

Mr. Krishna Kant Dubey, Adv.

Ms. Isha Singh, Adv.

Ms. Snehil Sonam, Adv.

Mr. Samir Ali Khan, AOR

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Chhattisgarh Mr. C.D. Singh, AAG

Mr. Apoorv Kurup, Adv.

Ms. Sakshi Kakkar, Adv.

Mr. A.C. Boxi Patro, Adv.

Goa Mr. Anshuman Srivastava, Adv.

Mr. S.S. Rebello, Adv.

Mr. Vijay Awana, Adv.

Gujarat Ms. Hemantika Wahi, AOR

Ms. Puja Singh, Adv.

Ms. Mamta Singh, Adv.

H.P. Mr. D.K. Thakur, DAG

Ms. Pragati Neekhara, Adv.

Mr. William Vinoth Kumar, Adv.

Mr. Varinder Kumar Sharma, Adv.

J&amp;K Mr. M. Shoeb Alam, Adv.

Ms. Fauzia Shakil, Adv.

Mr. Ujjwal Singh, Adv.

Mr. Mojahid Karim Khan, Adv.

Jharkhand Mr. Tapesk Kumar Singh, AOR

Mohd. Waquas, Adv.

Mr. Aditya Pratap Singh, Adv.

Karnataka Mr. V.N. Raghupathy, AOR

Madhya Pradesh Mr. Mishra Saurabh, AOR

Mr. Ankit Kr. Lal, Adv.

Ms. Vanshaja Shukla, Adv.

Maharashtra Mr. Mahaling Pandarge, Adv.

Mr. Nishant R. Katneshwarkar, Adv.

Manipur Mr. Sapam Biswajit Meitei, Adv.

Mr. Naresh Kumar Gaur, Adv.

Ms. Linthoingambi Thingam, Adv.

Mr. Ashok Kumar Singh, AOR  
Meghalaya Mr. Ranjan Mukherjee, AOR  
Mizoram Mr. T. G. Narayanan Nair, AOR  
Nagaland Mrs. K. Enatoli Sema, AOR  
Mr. Edward Belho, Adv.  
Mr. Amit Kumar Singh, Adv.  
Mr. K. Luikang Michael, Adv.  
Mr. Z.H. Isaac Haiding, Adv.  
Ms. Elix Gangmei, Adv.

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Odisha Ms. Anindita Pujari, Adv.  
Mr. Ananya Mishra, Adv.  
Mr. Ashok Panigrahi, AOR  
Punjab Mr. Sanchar Anand, AAG  
Mr. Rishi Chawla, Adv.  
Mr. Ghansyam, Adv.  
Rajasthan Mr. S.S. Shamsbery, Adv.  
Mr. Amit Sharma, Adv.  
Mr. Ankit Raj, Adv.  
Ms. Ruchi Kohli, Adv.  
Sikkim Ms. Aruna Mathur, Adv.  
Mr. Avneesh Arputham, Adv.  
Ms. Anuradha Arputham, Adv.  
Mr. Amit Arora, Adv.

for M/s Arputham Aruna & Co.

Tripura Mr. Gopal Singh, AOR  
Mr. Rituraj Biswas, Adv.  
Ms. Varsha Poddar, Adv.  
Tamil Nadu Mr. B. Balaji, AOR  
Mr. S. Kumar, Adv.  
Telangana Mr. S. Udaya Kumar Sagar, Adv.  
Mr. Mrityunjai Singh, Adv.  
Uttar Pradesh Mr. Adarsh Upadhyay, Adv.  
Ms. Pragati Neekhara, AOR  
Mr. Utkarsh Sharma, Adv.  
Uttarakhand Ms. Rachana Srivastava, AOR  
Ms. Monika, Adv.  
Mr. Sukrit R. Kapoor, Adv.  
West Bengal Mr. Raja Chatterjee, Adv.  
Mr. Chanchal Kr. Ganguly, Adv.  
Mr. Adeel Ahmed, Adv.  
A&N Islands Mr. Bhupesh Narula, Adv.  
Mr. K.V. Jagdishvaran, Adv.  
Mrs. G. Indira, Adv.  
Chandigarh Mr. Chandra Prakash, AOR  
Mr. Vivek Singh, Adv.  
Puducherry Mr. V.G. Pragasam, AOR  
Mr. Prabu Ramasubramanian, Adv.  
Mr. T.N. Rama Rao, Adv.

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Mr. Hitesh Kumar Sharma, Adv.  
Ms. T. Veera Reddy, Adv.  
Mr. D. Mahesh Babu, AOR  
Mr. Colin Gonsalves, Sr. Adv.  
Ms. Ritu Kumar, Adv.  
Mr. Satya Mitra, Adv.  
Mr. Kamal Mohan Gupta, AOR

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

It is stated by learned counsel for the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India that a Manual has been prepared relating to the Living Conditions in Institutions for Children in Conflict with Law. The Manual should be circulated to all the State Governments/Union Territories expeditiously so that the suggestions and recommendations incorporated therein can

be implemented, if necessary with State specific modifications.

The affidavit filed by the Union of India in Court today, without a copy of the Manual, is taken on record.

We have also gone through the affidavit filed on 11 th April, 2017 on behalf of Union of India through the Ministry of Home Affairs.

On perusal of the affidavit, it is quite obvious that there is a huge shortage of staff in almost every jail of the country. Necessary steps must be taken on an urgent basis by the State Governments/Union Territories to fill up these vacancies by 31 st December, 2017.

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It is also quite clear that training of personnel and staff has been taken in a very casual manner and there is only an ad-hoc system of training of staff. This must be done on a regular basis.

As far as the review of the Model Prison Manual is concerned, it is stated that the review is being taken up and some of the States have already made necessary modifications in the Model Prison Manual to suit their local requirements.

The Board of Visitors for jails has not been appointed in several States. The State Governments should take immediate steps to appoint a Board of Visitors who can visit jails and suggest remedial measures to improve the conditions of the prisoners & convicts as well as under trial prisoners.

As far as training manuals are concerned, it is stated that a Committee has been set up to look into this issue. Hopefully, the Committee which has been set up under the aegis of the Bureau of Police Research and Development will come out with appropriate training manuals as soon as possible.

With regard to the expenses in all the jails, it is stated that the Comptroller and Auditor General has carried out some audits. However, learned counsel for the Union of India states that the matter is being taken up with the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General to ensure that the audits are conducted on a regular

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basis so that there is not wasteful expenditure.

It is further stated that a Scheme is being proposed and will be discussed with the Comptroller and Auditor General and others States/Union Territories in this regard.

List the matter on 10 th August, 2017 for submissions on the second issue relating to unnatural deaths and also for a follow-up on the orders that have already been passed.

(SANJAY KUMAR-I)  
AR-CUM-PS

(SHARDA KAPOOR)  
COURT MASTER