

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). 659/2007

THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION FOUNDATION ETC.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

WITH

W.P. (C) No. 168/2012 (PIL-W)

W.P. (C) No. 133/2012 (PIL-W)

Date : 02-05-2018 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MADAN B. LOKUR
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DEEPAK GUPTA

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

Pursuant to our order dated 27.03.2018, an affidavit has been filed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development on 27.04.2018. In our order dated 27.03.2018, we had directed the State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations to supply full and complete information, if not already supplied, by e-mail to the Ministry of Women and Child Development within a period of two weeks.

In the affidavit filed by the said Ministry after one month, the status is that no reply has been received with regard to constitution of the Expert Committee by the States of Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka and Odisha. We may note that no one is present on behalf of the States of Karnataka and Odisha.

Learned counsel for Jammu & Kashmir says that information has been supplied. However, this is denied by the learned ASG and learned counsel for the National Commission for Women.

In view of the above, we impose costs of Rs.50,000/- on each of these States to be deposited with the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee within four weeks from today for utilization of Juvenile Justice issues.

As far as the Union Territory Administration of Daman and Diu is concerned, it has filed an affidavit to the effect that their

society is matriarchal society. No further orders are required to be passed in so far as the Union Territory of Daman and Diu is concerned.

Incomplete information has been supplied by the States of Maharashtra, Punjab and Uttrakhand as stated on affidavit by the said Ministry. No one is present on behalf of these States.

In so far as the State of West Bengal is concerned, it is stated that further information has been supplied but there is nothing to indicate and this is disputed by both learned ASG appearing for the Union of India and learned counsel for the National Commission for Women.

Accordingly, the costs of Rs.25,000/- is imposed on these States to be paid within four weeks to the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee for juvenile justice issues.

In so far as the State of Sikkim is concerned, it appears that there may not be much of an issue with regard to widows in this State and therefore the said Ministry may act on the basis of information that has already been received.

Convergence of Schemes

With regard to convergence of schemes, it is stated by learned counsel for National Commission for Women that some schemes have been received from some of the States.

In our view and the learned ASG agrees that it may be appropriate if one composite scheme is framed taking the best from all the schemes that are available.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development should take the initiative in this regard. Learned counsel for National Commission for Women submits that full support will be given by the National Commission to the said Ministry.

Floral Offerings

With regard to utilization of floral offerings and other benefits that can be given to the widows, it is submitted that response has been received only from a few States. The Ministry of Women and Child Development and the National Commission for Women are taking up the matter with other States.

Widow homes in U.P.

Learned AAG informs us that steps have been initiated for carrying out the plastering and other repairs in the widow homes in U.P. She says that this is being done with the funds of the State as well as through the funds received in Corporate Social Responsibility Scheme.

List the matter for compliance on 31st July, 2018 with regard to payment of costs and finalizing the scheme of convergence of all the schemes pertaining to the widows.

(MEENAKSHI KOHLI)
COURT MASTER

(KAILASH CHANDER)
COURT MASTER