

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 SWrit Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 1284/2020

CHANDRABHAL SINGH

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ANR.

Respondent(s)

(IA No. 115213/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT
IA No. 115212/2020 - STAY APPLICATION)

WITH

W.P.(C) No. 232/2021 (X)
(FOR APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS ON IA 39827/2021
IA No. 39827/2021 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS)W.P.(C) No. 432/2021 (PIL-W)
(FOR APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS ON IA 242713/2023
IA No. 242713/2023 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS)

Date : 26-07-2024 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HRISHIKESH ROY
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S.V.N. BHATTIFor Petitioner(s) Mr. Sanjay Upadhyay, Sr. Adv.
Ms. Mayuri Raghuvanshi, AOR
Mr. Vyom Raghuvanshi, Adv.
Mr. Shubham Upadhyay, Adv.
Mr. Saumitra Jaiswal, Adv.Mr. Prashant Bhushan, AOR
Ms. Neha Rathi, Adv.
Mr. Kamal Kishore, Adv.
Ms. Kajal Giri, Adv.Mr. Kunal Chatterji, AOR
Ms. Maitrayee Banerjee, Adv.
Mr. Rohit Bansal, Adv.For Respondent(s) Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, A.S.G.
Mr. Gurmeet Singh Makker, AOR
Ms. Archana Pathak Dave, Adv.
Mr. Chinmayee Chandra, Adv.
Ms. Suhashini Sen, Adv.
Mr. Saurav Roy, Adv.
Mr. Ishaan Sharma, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following

O R D E R

1. Heard Mr. Sanjay Upadhyay, learned senior counsel and Mr. Prashant Bhushan, learned counsel appearing for the petitioners. Also heard Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, learned ASG appearing for the respondents.

2. The petitioners *inter alia* raised grievance about the non-sitting of the National Board for Wildlife under the aegis of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 which has not met for several years. According to the counsel, the objective of the Act is not being given the due degree of earnestness it deserves.

3. Responding to the above, learned ASG Ms. Aishwarya Bhati would refer to the counter affidavit to project that under Section 5B of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, the National Board for Wildlife can constitute Standing Committee for the purpose of exercising such powers and performing such duties as may be delegated to the Committee, by the National Board. Such a Committee has been constituted which is headed by the Minister In-charge of Environment and Forest. The constitution of Committee is adverted to in paragraph 11 of the counter affidavit. It is then pointed out that the Standing Committee ordinarily meet once in every three months and since its constitution, the Committee has held around 72 meetings. It is therefore argued that the requisite attention is being paid by the Union to discharge their responsibilities under the Act.

4. On the allegation of the National Board for Wildlife not sitting at least once a year as is required under Rule 4(1) of the National Board for Wildlife Rules, 2003, Ms. Bhati prays for time to obtain instruction. The requisite instruction be obtained within four weeks.

(NITIN TALREJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(KAMLESH RAWAT)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR