

ITEM NO.42

COURT NO.3

SECTION X

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).785/2024

YASH DODANI & ORS.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

Date : 05-12-2024 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SURYA KANT
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE UJJAL BHUYAN

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Rahul Bajaj, Adv.
Ms. Sanchita Ain, AOR
Mr. Taha Bin Tasneem, Adv.

For Respondent(s) Mrs. Archana Pathak Dave, A.S.G.
Mr. Ashok Panigrahi, Adv.
Mr. Madhav Sinhal, Adv.
Mrs. Swati Ghildiyal, Adv.
Mrs. Diksha Rai, Adv.
Mr. Manish, Adv.
Dr. N. Visakamurthy, AOR

Mr. Akshay Amritanshu, AOR
Ms. Anjul Dwivedi, Adv.
Ms. Swati Mishra, Adv.
Ms. Pragya Upadhyay, Adv.
Ms. Drishti Saraf, Adv.

Ms. Pritha Srikumar Iyer, AOR
Mr. Arun Srikumar, Adv.
Mr. Shubhansh Thakur, Adv.

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

1. Heard learned counsel for the parties.
2. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the Bar Council of India has placed on record a communication dated 03.12.2024, a copy whereof has been supplied to Mr. Rahul Bajaj, learned counsel for the petitioners.

3. What emerges is that, with a view to provide a meaningful and effective opportunity to the visually impaired candidates, the Bar Council of India is required to ensure that: (i) JAWS (Job Access With Speech) screen reader, in addition to option for NVDA (Non Visual Desktop Access) screen reader, is made available to the candidates; (ii) the candidates be permitted to use their own keyboard and customised mouse, if not the laptop, in conformity with Clause IX of the Office Memorandum No.F.No.34-02/2015-DD-III, dated 29.08.2018, issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) (in short, "the Guidelines"); (iii) the candidates be permitted to complete downloading/installation of the screen reader software and other related exercises a day prior to the commencement of the examination, in consonance with Clause IX of the Guidelines; and (iv) the candidates be permitted to answer the questions on computer instead of through a scribe, but the option for use of scribe must also be allowed to be exercised by the candidates who want to opt as such. We direct accordingly.

4. The above-mentioned measures shall be taken by the Bar Council of India at its own cost.

5. Learned counsel for Bar Council of India seeks and is granted some time to seeks instructions and submit a compliance report in this regard.

6. Post the matter for hearing on 11.12.2024.

(SATISH KUMAR YADAV)
ADDITIONAL REGISTRAR

(PREETHI T.C.)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

