IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA CIVIL APPELLATE/ORIGINAL/INHERENT JURISDICTION

CIVIL APPEAL NO. 5988 OF 2019

ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA & ANR.

... Appellant(s)

Respondent(s)

Petitioner(s)

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

PEOPLE FOR ELIMINATION OF STRAY TROUBLES & ORS.

....

...

CONTEMPT PETITION (Civil) No. 944/2017 in I.A. No.4/2015

WITH

in

Writ Petition (Civil) No. 599/2015

JOSE SABASTIN AND ANR.

VERSUS

DR. K.M. ABRAHAM CHIEF SECRETARY, STATE OF KERALA ... Respondent(s)

Writ Petition(Civil) No. 1439/2019

SANJAY KUMAR

....

VERSUS

THE STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH AND ORS. ... Respondent(s)

Civil Appeal No. 5956/2019

THE STATE OF KERALA AND ANR. ... Appellant(s)

VERSUS

DISTRICT PANCHAYATH REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY ... Respondent(s)

Civil Appeal No. 5953/2019

THE STATE OF KERALA AND ORS. ... Appellant(s)

VERSUS

IDUKKI SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY OF ANIMALS IDUKKI DISTRICT AND ANR. ... Respondent(s)

Civil Appeal No. 5955/2019

STATE OF KERALA AND ORS. ... Appellant(s)

VERSUS

THE ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND FOREST AND ORS. ... Respondent(s)

Civil Appeal No. 5948/2019

THE STATE OF KERALA AND ORS. ... Appellant(s)

VERSUS

DAYA AND ANR.

Civil Appeal No. 5954/2019

THE STATE OF KERALA

... Appellant(s)

...

Respondent(s)

VERSUS

KOCHOUSEPH CHITTILAPPILLY AND ORS. ... Respondent(s)

Writ Petition (Civil) No. 319/2020

HUMANE FOUNDATION FOR PEOPLE AND ANIMALS AND ORS. ... Petitioner (s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA AND ORS.

CONTEMPT PETITION (Civil) No. 40/2022 in

Civil Appeal No. 5988/2019

RISHI DEV

Petitioner(s)

Respondent(s)

VERSUS

DR. JANE PRASAD AND ORS.

Diary No(s). 35297/2022

SWATI SUDHIRCHANDRA CHATTERJEE AND ORS.

Petitioner(s) ...

VERSUS

VIJAY SHANKARRAO TALEWAR AND ORS.

Respondent(s)

Diary No(s). 35322/2022

JANICE SMITH ANIMAL WELFARE TRUST AND ANR. ... Petitioner (s)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA AND ORS. Respondent(s)

... Respondent(s)

...

Respondent(s) ...

Special Leave Petition (Civil) No. 20845/2022

THE PEOPLE FOR ANIMAL TRUST ... Petitioner (s)

VERSUS

VIJAY SHANKARRAO TALEWAR AND ORS. ... Respondent(s)

Writ Petition(Civil) No. 765/2023

DIPANKARA SUMEDHO

... Petitioner (s)

Respondent(s)

...

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA AND ORS.

Civil Appeal No. 5990/2019

DEFENCE OF ANIMALS THROUGH ITS PRESIDENT MRS.FIZZAH SHAH

... Appellant(s)

... Respondent(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA AND ORS.

Civil Appeal No. 5991/2019

THE SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND ANR. ... Appellant(s)

VERSUS

PEOPLE FOR ELIMINATION OF STRAY TROUBLES (PEST) AND ORS. ... Respondent(s)

<u>Civil Appeal No. 5992/2019</u>

WELFARE OF STRAY DOGS (PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST)		Appellant(s)	
VERSUS			
PEOPLE FOR ELIMINATION OF STRAY TROUBLES AND ORS.		Respondent(s)	
<u>Civil Appeal No. 6042</u>	2019	<u>.</u>	
PEOPLE FOR ELIMINATION OF STRAY TROUBLES AND ANR.		Appellant(s)	
VERSUS			
UNION OF INDIA AND ORS.		Respondent(s)	
<u>Civil Appeal No. 6551/2019</u>			
ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA		Appellant(s)	
VERSUS			
B.KRISHNA BHAT AND ORS.		Respondent(s)	
<u>Civil Appeal No. 6552</u>	/2019	<u>.</u>	
NRUPA R. NATHVANI AND ORS.		Appellant(s)	
VERSUS			
UNION OF INDIA THROUGH ITS SECRETARY		Respondent(s)	

Civil Appeal No. 6553/2019

COMPASSION UNLIMITED PLUS ACTION (CUPA) BBMP CUPA THROUGH ITS SECRETARY		Appellant(s)
VERSUS		
BRUHAT BANGALORE MAHANAGARA PALIKE THROUGH ITS COMMISSIONER AND ORS.		Respondent(s)
<u>Civil Appeal No.</u>	5950/2019	
THE STATE OF KERALA AND ORS.		Appellant(s)
VERSUS		
THICHUR NAZEER AND ANR.		Respondent(s)
<u>Civil Appeal No.</u>	5051/2010	
	<u></u>	
THE STATE OF KERALA AND ORS.		Appellant(s)
VERSUS		
HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION COUNCIL		Respondent(s)
<u>Civil Appeal No.</u>	5952/2019	
STATE OF KERALA		Appellant(s)
VERSUS		
THE ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY		Respondent(s)

Civil Appeal No. 5989/2019

VINIYOG PARIVAR TRUST AND ANR. ... Appellant(s)

VERSUS

BRIHAN MUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORP. AND ORS. ... Respondent(s)

Civil Appeal No. 5930/2019

ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA THROUGH ITS SECRETARY	 Appellant(s)
VERSUS	
DIMPLE VAHALI OBEROI AND ORS.	 Respondent(s)

Writ Petition(Civil) No. 599/2015

ANUPAM TRIPATHI	Appellant	(s)
VER	SUS	
UNION OF INDIA AND ORS.	Respondent	(s)

Civil Appeal No. 5972/2019

ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF		
INDIA AND ANR.	•••	Appellant(s)

VERSUS

OMBUDSMAN FOR LOCAL	
SELF GOVERNMENT	
INSTITUTIONS AND ORS.	 Respondent(s)

Writ Petition(Civil) No. 805/2015

SABU STEEPHEN AND ORS. ... Petitioner(s) VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA AND ORS. ... Respondent(s)

Writ Petition (Civil) No. 808/2015

ALUVA JANASEVA @ JANASEVA SISUBHAVAN THR. ITS SECRETARY ... Appellant(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA AND ORS. ... Respondent(s)

Civil Appeal No. 5947/2019

THE STATE OF KERALA AND ORS. ... Appellant(s) VERSUS

M.R. AJAYAN AND ORS. ... Respondent(s)

Civil Appeal No. 5949/2019

THE STATE OF KERALA AND ANR. ... Appellant(s)

VERSUS

THOMAS CHANDY AND ORS. ... Respondent(s)

<u>O R D E R</u>

1. The point raised for consideration in the present batch of petitions is as to whether the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (hereinafter referred to as '1960 Act' for short), and the rules framed thereunder i.e. the Animal Birth Control Rules, 2001 (hereinafter referred to as '2001 Rules' for brevity), would prevail over the local/Municipal Laws of the concerned States in the management of stray dogs or not?

2. Looking at the first petition, that in specific, the Animal Welfare Board of India preferred Civil Appeal No. 5988 of 2019 assailing the final judgment and order dated 19.12.2008 passed by the three-Judge Bench of the High Court of Judicature at Bombay in appellate side Writ Petition No. 6257 of 2006. The inter play between the provisions of the 1960 Act and the Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act, 1888 and the respective rules/regulations framed/ issued in terms thereof, was the subject matter for consideration before the Court.

3. The said appeal, being the first in the point of time, was preferred as a special leave petition in the year 2009, wherein notice was issued on 23.01.2009 and the operation of the Judgment of the Bombay High Court was stayed and subsequently, leave to appeal granted.
4. Since then, we find much water has flown down.
We notice that in the said appeal, several parties

have filed different applications (*about 30* in number) seeking certain directions. Also, several independent petitions (06 in number) stand filed which, over a period of time stand tagged and heard together along with the said appeal, as revealed from the proceedings.

5. We notice that in terms of our order dated 18.11.2015, it stands observed that all the municipal corporation(s), municipal committee(s), district board(s) and local bodies shall be guided by the provisions of the 1960 Act and the 2001 Rules and that it would be the duty and obligation of the Animal Welfare Board, ensuring compliance and follow up action with all earnestness.

6. Subsequently, as is evident from certain orders, several issues were raised by the stakeholders, *inter alia*, ensuring proper and complete implementation framework for the street dogs population management, rabies eradication and reducing man-dog conflict causing hardship as per various divergent pleas taken by them.

7. We also notice that covering the very same issue, while dealing with the similar statutes, different High Courts have taken divergent views. Whereas the

Kerala High Court has upheld the 2001 Rules, further holding that the municipal laws for dealing with the stray dogs should be in compliance with the 2001 Rules and discretionary powers cannot be granted to the municipal authorities for killing the stray dogs. The High Courts of Bombay, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh have held that the local authorities have discretionary powers to kill the stray dogs for them not to be subjected by the 2001 Rules, notified by the Central Government. The minority judgment of the Bombay High Court is in line with the opinion rendered by the Kerala High Court.

8. Different appeals/special leave petitions (23 in number) arising out of the said orders/judgments also stand filed and as such clubbed with the main appeal. It is also noticed that certain contempt petitions, two in number, were filed and heard along with the main appeal.

9. Well, all this was prior to 10.03.2023, on which date, the Annual Birth Control Rules, 2023, stand notified by the Central Government, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal husbandry and Dairying, and now in force.

Considering all the intervening developments and 10. more specifically the enactment of the new Rules in place mechanism for preventing putting the infliction of unnecessary pains and sufferings on animals, more specifically the canines, we intend to close the instant proceedings leaving it open for each one of the parties to pursue their remedies on arises, occasion **SO** if **SO** advised, before the Constitutional Courts, other Forums having respective jurisdiction, in accordance with law.

11. We only hasten to add, that under all circumstances, there cannot be any indiscriminate killings of canines and the authorities have to take action in terms of the mandate and spirit of the prevalent legislation(s) in place. There is no gainsaying in the fact that exhibiting compassion to all living beings, is the enshrined Constitutional value and mandate, and cast obligation on the authorities to maintain.

12. We clarify that all issues, raised in the instant *lis* are kept open to be adjudicated in an appropriate proceedings, before the appropriate forum, in accordance with law. Whether be it may the mechanism in terms of the new Rules deficient/insufficient or

repugnant to the Constitution or the parent statute(s); in our considered view, which can be best considered by the Constitutional Courts or other Forums accounting for all factors and circumstances, local in nature, being germane for adjudication for them and to decide it independently. We are hopeful that as and when any such issue is raised, the same shall be considered expeditiously, in accordance with law, uninfluenced of any one of the observations made in the impugned orders/judgments and the proceedings of these batch of petitions/appeals.

13. With the aforesaid observations, the appeals/petitions stand disposed of. All the applications shall also stand closed.

[J.K. MAHESHWARI]

New Delhi; May 09, 2024. ITEM NO.112

COURT NO.9

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Civil Appeal No. 5988/2019

ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA & ANR. VERSUS Appellant(s)

PEOPLE FOR ELIMINATION OF STRAY TROUBLES & ORS. Respondent(s) (IA NO. 228159/2023 - ADDITION / DELETION / MODIFICATION PARTIES and IA No. 196166/2022 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION and IA No. 245159/2023 - APPLICATION FOR REJECTION OF THE PLAINT and IA No. 141459/2022 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS and IA No. 89077/2022 -APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS and IA No. 74085/2018 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS and IA No. 38557/2023 -APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS and IA No. 22823/2022 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION IA NO. 77765/2018 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION and IA and No. 71833/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT and IA No. 196155/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT and IA No. 10860/2018 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. and IA No. 145257/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. and IA No. 50034/2024 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. and IA No. 38561/2023 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. and IA No. 10871/2018 -EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. and IA No. 5320/2024 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION and IA No. 128421/2023 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION and IA No. 48830/2024 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION and IA No. 6038/2024 -INTERVENTION APPLICATION and IA No. 38549/2023 **INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT** 15857/2023 and IA No. **INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT** and IA No. 71819/2024 **INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT** 131449/2023 and IA No. **INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT** and IA 56180/2024 No. **INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT** 228156/2023 and IA No. ĪA INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT and No. 196151/2022 INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT and IA No. 226157/2023 INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT and IA No. 189486/2022 225000/2023 **INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT** and IA No. INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT and IA No. 215374/2023 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON and IA No. 206776/2023 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON and IA No. 196161/2022 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON and IA No. 189497/2022 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON and IA No. 38552/2023 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON and IA No. 147935/2022 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES and IA No. 230380/2023 -PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES and IA No. FILE PERMISSION то ADDITIONAL 50029/2024 -DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES and IA No. 225876/2023 - PERMISSION TO FILE APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION and IA No. 224055/2023 - WITHDRAWAL OF CASE / APPLICATION)

WITH

CONMT.PET.(C) No. 944/2017 in W.P.(C) No. 599/2015 (PIL-W) (IA NO. 50714/2017 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. and IA No. 41847/2018 - I/A FOR AMENDMENT OF SOLE CONTEMNORS NAME) W.P.(C) No. 1439/2019 (PIL-W) (IA No. 119635/2020 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. and IA No. 188586/2019 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.) C.A. No. 5956/2019 (XI-A) C.A. No. 5953/2019 (XI-A) C.A. No. 5955/2019 (XI-A) (FOR PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON ON IA 187109/2019) C.A. No. 5948/2019 (XI-A) C.A. No. 5954/2019 (XI-A) W.P.(C) No. 319/2020 (PIL-W) (IA PERMISSION TO 24146/2020 FILE ADDITIONAL NO. -DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES) CONMT.PET.(C) No. 40/2022 in C.A. No. 5988/2019 (III) (FOR ADMISSION) Diary No(s). 35297/2022 (IX) (IA NO. 171074/2022 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION and IA No. **170999/2022** – CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION and IA No. 169336/2022 EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT and IA No. 170996/2022 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION and IA No. 176803/2022 -INTERVENTION APPLICATION and IA No. 175938/2022 INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT and IA No. 169338/2022 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES and IA No. 169337/2022 -PERMISSION TO FILE PETITION (SLP/TP/WP/..)) Diary No(s). 35322/2022 (IX) (IA NO. 170690/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT and IA No. 170689/2022 - PERMISSION TO FILE PETITION (SLP/TP/WP/..)) SLP(C) No. 20845/2022 (IX) (IA NO. 174849/2022 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/C OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT) W.P.(C) No. 765/2023 (X) (IA No. 143732/2023 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS) C.A. No. 5990/2019 (III) C.A. No. 5991/2019 (III)

Civil Appeal No. 5988/2019 etc.

C.A. No. 5992/2019 (III) (IA No. 2/2015 - PERMISSION TO FILE ANNEXURES)

C.A. No. 6042/2019 (III) (IA No. 1/2010 - CONDONATION OF DELAY IN FILING)

C.A. No. 6551/2019 (IV-A) (IA No. 108994/2019 - VACATING STAY)

C.A. No. 6552/2019 (IV-A) (IA No. 243222/2023 - ADDITION / DELETION / MODIFICATION PARTIES and IA No. 100795/2017 - VACATING STAY)

C.A. No. 6553/2019 (IV-A) (IA No. 243224/2023 - ADDITION / DELETION / MODIFICATION PARTIES and IA No. 697/2021 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION and IA No. 700/2021 -EXEMPTION FROM FILING AFFIDAVIT and IA No. 108987/2019 - VACATING STAY)

C.A. No. 5950/2019 (XI-A)

C.A. No. 5951/2019 (XI-A)

C.A. No. 5952/2019 (XI-A)

C.A. No. 5989/2019 (III)

C.A. No. 5930/2019 (XIV-A)

W.P.(C) No. 599/2015 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 8781/2018 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION and IA No. 3/2015 EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. and IA No. 10/2016 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. and IA No. 175799/2022 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION and **155093/2022 - INTERVENTION** APPLICATION IA No. and IA NO. 1/2015 147924/2022 -INTERVENTION APPLICATION and IA No. PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON and IA No. 6/2016 PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON and IA No. 11/2016 PERMISSION TO FILE ANNEXURES and IA No. 9/2016 - PERMISSION TO FILE ANNEXURES and IA No. 8/2016 - PERMISSION TO FILE ANNEXURES)

C.A. No. 5972/2019 (XI-A) (IA No. 99975/2017 - PERMISSION TO FILE APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION)

W.P.(C) No. 805/2015 (PIL-W)

(IA No. 7/2017 - AMENDMENT IN CAUSE TITLE and IA No. 151960/2018 -APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS and IA No. 64919/2018 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS and IA No. 131906/2022 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS and IA No. 80873/2017 - DELETING THE NAME OF PETITIONER/RESPONDENT and IA No. 9/2017 - EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. and IA No. 1/2015 - PERMISSION TO APPEAR AND ARGUE IN PERSON) W.P.(C) No. 808/2015 (PIL-W) (IA No. 2/2015 - DISPENSING WITH SERVICE OF NOTICE)

C.A. No. 5947/2019 (XI-A)

(IA No. 123006/2023 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION and IA No. 129897/2023 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS and IA No. 117316/2023 APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS and IA No. 121245/2023 APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS and IA No. 119872/2023 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS and IA No. 131731/2022 - CLARIFICATION/DIRECTION 119871/2023 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION and IA No. and IA No. 129890/2023 -INTERVENTION APPLICATION and IA No. 128495/2023 -INTERVENTION APPLICATION and IA No. 131989/2023 **INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT** and IA No. 121240/2023 **INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT** and IA No. 230546/2023 **INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT** and IA NO. 228130/2023 INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT and IA No. 117494/2023 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES)

C.A. No. 5949/2019 (XI-A)

Date : 09-05-2024 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE J.K. MAHESHWARI HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY KAROL

For parties

Mr. Arunabh Chowdhary, Sr. Adv. Mr. Amol Chitale, Adv. Mr. Nirnimesh Dube, Adv. Mr. Susheel Joseph Cyriac, Adv. Ms. Sonia Dube, Adv. Ms. Priya S Bhalerao, Adv. Mr. Varun Kanwal, Adv. M/S. Lex Regis Law Offices, AOR Mr. Ajit Sharma, AOR Ms. Aparna Bhat, AOR Ms. Karishma Maria, Adv. Mr. Sudhanshu S. Choudhari, AOR Ms. Manisha T. Karia, AOR Mr. Rohan Trivedi, Adv. Ms. Swapnil Baudh, Adv. Mr. Dipinshani, Adv. Ms. Ananya Arora, Adv. Mr. Vikram Chandravanshi, Adv.

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

The appeals/petitions stand disposed of and all the applications shall also stand closed in terms of the signed order.

(NIDHI AHUJA) (VIRENDER SINGH) AR-cum-PS BRANCH OFFICER [Signed order is placed on the file.]