



**HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR**

**WPPIL No. 57 of 2024**

In The Matter Of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation 30 Villages Turn Into Islands Due To Rains, Residents Brave Floods For Survival Based On News Item Published In Bansal E-News, Dated 03 August, 2024 In Which News Items, Namely - Barish Mein Taapu Bane Chhattisgarh Ke 30 Gaon- Zindagi Daav Par Lagakar Gramin Laate Hain Ration, 77 Salon Se Hain Aise Halat.

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**... Petitioners**

**versus**

1. The State Of Chhattisgarh Through Chief Secretary, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
2. State Of Chhattisgarh Through Secretary, Public Work Department, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
3. State Of Chhattisgarh Through Secretary, Public Distribution System (Pds), Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
4. State Of Chhattisgarh Through Secretary, Revenue And Disaster Management Department, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur,

Chhattisgarh.

5. Collector, Bijapur, District - Bijapur, Chhattisgarh.

... Respondents

**Order Sheet**

<b>05/08/2024</b>	<p>This is an office reference.</p> <p>This suo moto public interest litigation has been registered on the basis of e-news item published in <a href="https://bansalnews.com/chhattisgarh-bijapur-district">https://bansalnews.com/chhattisgarh-bijapur-district</a>, on 3<sup>rd</sup> of August, 2024 with a heading “बारिश में टापू बने छत्तीसगढ़ के ये 30 गांव : जिंदगी दांव पर लगाकर ग्रामीण लाते हैं राशन : 77 सालों से हैं ऐसे हालात”.</p> <p>The aforesaid news relates to construction of bridge on Chintavagu river in Bhopalpattanam block of District Bijapur.</p> <p>The said news item goes to state that because of heavy rains in District Bijapur, all the rivers and culverts are in upsurge because of which more than three villages have turned into island and are disconnected with other parts of the District. The people residing in these villages are facing grave difficulties in their daily lives as they are not able to collect the free ration which is supplied through the Public Distribution System. The people of such remote areas are constrained to cross the overflowing rivers and culverts putting their lives at stake. As there is no bridge on the Chintavagu river, all these situation has arisen and they are constrained to</p>

walk for about 8 KMs. The people of Minur village have requested to open a PDS shop in their village but no heed is being paid to it by the government officials.

The said news goes to further state that for the last 77 years, the said situation is prevailing. They have been requesting for the last 15 years for constructing a bridge on the Chintavagu river and in the alternative, they had requested the District Administration to at least provide a motorboat so that the villagers may be able to collect their ration from the PDS shops without any hindrance.

Mr. Prafull N Bharat, learned Advocate General assisted by Mr. Sangharsh Pandey, learned Government Advocate, submits that the situation depicted in the news item is exaggerated one, however, he admits that in the Bastar region, during the rainy season, some parts of the District Bijapur which are in remote areas, face such kind of problems and in order to overcome those situation, the ration for 4 months are supplied at once to the PDS shops so that there may not be any hurdle in distribution of ration to the beneficiaries. It is the policy of the State Government that where there are minimum 500 beneficiaries, in that place only, the PDS shops are opened. In the case in hand, the villages which are affected does not have such number of beneficiaries. He further submits that since the water level has now gone down, the situation is much better than what it was few days ago and the

State and the District Administration is taking all measures so that the villagers do not face any difficulty in distribution of food grains through the PDS shops.

In view of the above, the District Collector, Bijapur is directed to file his personal affidavit with respect to the present PIL before the next date of hearing.

Let the matter be listed again on **14<sup>th</sup> August, 2024.**

Sd/-

(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)  
**Judge**

Sd/-

(Ramesh Sinha)  
**Chief Justice**