

HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA
AT SHILLONG

PIL No.4/2024

Date of Order: 27.11.2024

Kaustav Paul

Vs.

State of Meghalaya & ors

Coram:

Hon'ble Mr. Justice I.P. Mukerji, Chief Justice
Hon'ble Mr. Justice W. Diengdoh, Judge

Appearance:

For the Petitioner

: Mr. S. Thapa, Adv vice
Petitioner in-person

For the Respondents

: Mrs. T. Yangi B., AAG with
Mr. E.R. Chyne, GA
Mr. Philemon Nongbri, Adv for R/4&5

- | | | |
|-----|--|--------|
| i) | Whether approved for reporting in Law journals etc.: | Yes/No |
| ii) | Whether approved for publication in press: | Yes |

Note: For proper public information and transparency, any media reporting this judgment is directed to mention the composition of the bench by name of judges, while reporting this judgment/order.

This public interest litigation (PIL) involves two issues broadly.

The first is with regard to relocation of the zoo in Shillong and the second is for measures to deal with dog menace.

We shall deal with the second issue first. We take judicial notice of the fact that street dogs are increasing in number and pose a menace to the public. The cases of dog bites and deaths caused by rabies are sizeable in number.

Learned counsel for the Shillong Municipal Board states that the municipality has taken measures to vaccinate those dogs against the above infection and sterilize them so that their number does not increase. However, till now there is no shelter to keep those dogs. The municipality personnel capture the dogs from the road, vaccinate and sterilize them. Thereafter, they are released on the road again.

While we appreciate this work being carried out by the Municipal Board, there is absolute need for the Board to acquire a shelter where these street dogs can be kept. We direct that immediate steps be taken in that direction by the Board with the assistance of the State government and the action taken be embodied in a report to be filed in this Court by 5th February, 2025.

Now, with regard to the first issue, learned counsel for the State submits before this Court that way back in June, 2024, the present zoo in Shillong was shifted to a location which is about 35 kms from

Shillong. This facility has amongst other things a veterinary hospital manned by a competent doctor.

Nearly all the animals from the present zoo except a pregnant deer and birds have been transferred to the new location which is known as the Meghalaya State Zoo. The birds could not be shifted as they had to be accommodated in a cage type enclosure, the construction of which has not been completed till now. We are quite satisfied with the action taken by the government to shift the zoo to a location which is more congenial to animals.

Mr. S. Thapa representing the petitioner submits that the petitioner being a senior advocate would like to make some submissions at a future date.

List this PIL on 10th February, 2025.

In the meantime, the Shillong Municipal Board shall file an action taken report with regard to street dogs post passing of this order.

(W. Diengdoh)
Judge

(I.P. Mukerji)
Chief Justice

Meghalaya
27.11.2024
"*Lam DR-PS*"