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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ W.P.(C) 6082/2019

KARAN S THUKRAL

..... Petitioner

Through: Mr. Sahil Ralli, Advocate.

versus

THE DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE & ORS Respondents

Through: Mrs. Avnish Ahlawat, SC, GNCTD
with Mr. N.K. Singh, Ms. Laavanya
Kaushik and Ms. Aliza Alam,
Advocates.

Mr. Shubham Mahajan, Advocate for
R-12.

CORAM:

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJEEV NARULA

ORDER

09.10.2023

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1. The present PIL concerns the lack of a standardised procedure for the acknowledgment of pleadings, documents and applications filed in Delhi District Courts and problems arising thereof. In this regard, *vide* order dated 17.08.2023, this Court recommended the adoption of a standardized online filing system in Delhi Districts Courts. However, as a complete transition to an online system requires substantial time and infrastructure, this Court *vide* the aforementioned order issued interim measures/directions that would serve as temporary solutions until the online filing system is operationalised and or/until rules addressing the issue are promulgated by the Rules Committee of this High Court.

2. At the outset, Learned Counsel for the Delhi High Court has handed



over a status report detailing compliance with the directions issued by this Court in order dated 17.08.2023. Let the same be brought on record.

3. As per the status report, various circulars have been issued in all the District Courts from time to time to ensure implementation of the directions of this Court. The steps taken by the District Courts are summarised as under:

(i) *Circulars have been issued in all the District Courts with the directions to the Readers of all the Courts to maintain inward dak register to maintain the record of physically filed Written Statement/ Rejoinder/ Misc. applications/ Misc. documents in respect of the court and to acknowledge the receipt thereof to the concerned Advocate/litigants in person till the time Centralized Filing System is implemented.*

(ii) *Circulars have been issued in all the District Courts directing the Ahlmad of all the Courts to compulsorily register in CIS the interim applications/ misc. applications filed in the court physically on the same day and issue acknowledgement/provide unique I.A. registration number to the Advocate/litigant in person.*

(iii) *As there is no provision in CIS for registration of Written Statement/Rejoinder, etc. the office of the CPC has sent a request to the Hon'ble eCommittee, Supreme Court of India to provide a mechanism in the CIS software for registration of Written Statement/Rejoinder, etc. The response from the Hon'ble eCommittee is awaited.*

(iv) *The Centralized Filing System has been introduced in the Patiala House Courts, New Delhi, in compliance of the directions.*

4. The status report reveals that the directions issued by this Court have been complied with partially. With regard to the introduction of a centralised filing system in Patiala Court as a pilot program, Learned Counsel submits that a progress report detailing the challenges and learnings therein will be



submitted within 4 weeks. Accordingly, let a fresh status report be filed by the Delhi High court detailing compliance with all directions issued by this Court on 17.08.2023, within 4 weeks from today.

5. With regard to the developments from the Rules Committee of this Court concerning the framing of rules for a centralised online filing system, the status report reveals that the matter has been forwarded to the Information Technology Committee of this Court for further deliberations.

6. At this stage, it has been brought to the notice of this Court that in certain District Courts, records of disposed cases are not being consigned to the record room by the *Ahlmad*, resulting in great difficulties in obtaining certified copies/documents in a timely manner.

7. We, therefore, direct all District Judges to ensure that after disposal of a case, its records are immediately transmitted to the record room by the custodian of the record. Accordingly, all the District Judges are directed to file a status report in respect of the aforesaid within 4 weeks from today.

8. List on 20.11.2023.

SATISH CHANDRA SHARMA, CJ

SANJEEV NARULA, J

OCTOBER 9, 2023

N.Khanna