



CGHC010173422024

**HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR****WPPIL No. 37 of 2024**

IN THE MATTER OF SUO MOTO PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION

**versus**

THE STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

**Order Sheet**

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| <b>21/07/2026</b> | <p>This is an office reference.</p> <p>Heard Mr. Ravindra Sharma, and Mr. Apoorv Tripathi, learned Court Commissioners. Also heard Mr. Shashank Thakur, learned Addl. Advocate General appearing for the State/respondents No.1 to 9, Mr. Ramakant Mishra, learned DSGI and Ms. Annapurna Tiwari, learned counsel appearing for respondent No.10, Mr. Rajeev Shrivastava, learned Senior Advocate assisted by Mr. Anuroop Panda, learned counsel appearing for respondent- NTPC, Sipat and NTPC, Korba, Dr. Sudeep Agrawal, learned counsel appearing the SECL/respondent No.14, Mr. Animesh Tiwari, learned counsel appearing for the Chhattisgarh</p> |

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|  | <p>Environment Conservation Board/respondent No.15, Mr. Manoj Paranjpe, learned Senior Advocate assisted by Mr. Rishabh Gupta, learned counsel appearing for the BALCO/respondent No.16, Mr. Dhiraj Kumar Wankhede, learned counsel appearing for the respondent No. 11 and 12, Mr. Mayank Chandrakar, learned counsel for the respective respondents.</p> <p>In compliance of the Court's order dated 07.05.2026, the Secretary Government of Chhattisgarh, Department of Public Works Mahanadi Bhawan, Mantralaya, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur (C.G) has filed his personal affidavit which is reproduced hereinbelow:-</p> <p>“3. That, the deponent respectfully submits that pursuant to the deposit of the amount of additional performance guarantee by the selected bidder i.e. M/s Sanjay Kumar Kedia, the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD, Division No. 1, Bilaspur has issued a work order on 15/05/2026 for strengthening and up-gradation of Seepat – Balouda –Korba road (NH No. 130-A). It is submitted that the concerned Contractor has to complete the above work within a period of 12 months including the rainy season. A copy of the order dated 15/05/2026 is being filed herewith as</p> |
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Annexure A/1.

4. That, the deponent respectfully submits that pursuant to the work order, an agreement has also been executed between the said contractor and the concerned authority and further an amount of Rs. 84,47,000/- has been released in favour of the said contractor towards mobilization advance vide cheque dated 24/06/2026. Copy of the relevant page of memorandum of payment is being filed herewith as Annexure A/2. It is submitted that the strengthening and up-gradation of the said road would be completed as per the desired time line.

5. That, the deponent respectfully submits that second issue with respect to the poor condition of road i.e. NH No. 343 from Ambikapur to Rajpur is concerned, after selection of contractor namely M/s Shanti Injicon Private Limited and Ramia Construction Pvt. Ltd (Joint Venture) has been given the work order on 27/05/2025 for repair and construction of road from Ambikapur to Rajpur having length of 49.00 KM. It is submitted that the constructor has been given time up to 26/05/2027 to complete the work as certain culverts have to be constructed. It is submitted that as of now, the work is in progress and every efforts are

being taken by the department to ensure that the work is completed well within the time. To demonstrate this fact, copy of the letter dated 20/07/2026 of the EE, PWD, NH, Division Ambikapur alongwith the latest photographs is being filed herewith as Annexure A/3 collectively.

6. That, the deponent most respectfully submits that he has the highest regard and respect for the lawful authority of this Hon'ble Court as well as its orders and directions issued from time to time and is duty bound to adhere to and abide by the orders.

7. That, the contents of this affidavit have been drafted according to my instructions and the contents thereof are true and correct to the best of my personal knowledge and belief, based on the official records.”

From perusal of the affidavit filed by the Secretary, Department of Public Works, Government of Chhattisgarh, along with the documents annexed thereto, this Court finds that pursuant to the earlier directions issued by this Court, the respondents have taken concrete steps towards execution of the road projects under consideration. In respect of the Seepat–Balouda–Korba Road (NH No.130-A), the work order has been issued after deposit of the

additional performance guarantee, an agreement has been executed with the contractor, and mobilization advance has also been released. Similarly, with regard to NH No.343 from Ambikapur to Rajpur, the respondents have stated that the work is in progress and have placed on record the latest progress report along with photographs indicating the ongoing execution of the project.

While the steps taken by the respondents are noted and appreciated, this Court is of the considered opinion that the issues involved in the present Public Interest Litigation are of considerable public importance and the projects have not yet reached completion. Since the objective of the proceedings would be achieved only upon timely completion of the works in accordance with the prescribed standards, the matter requires continued judicial monitoring.

Further, the report dated 13.07.2026 submitted by the learned Court Commissioner has been perused. The report encloses the information furnished by the Regional Transport Officer regarding the road accidents that occurred in the State of Chhattisgarh during the period from 01.01.2025 to 31.05.2026, the details of the identified

accident-prone black spots, and the meetings conducted by the District Road Safety Committees. The data placed on record reveals that during the calendar year 2025, a total of 15,484 road accidents were reported in the State, resulting in 6,967 fatalities and 13,156 persons sustaining injuries. Further, up to 31.05.2026, 6,891 road accidents have already been reported, leading to 3,170 deaths and 5,741 injuries. The aforesaid statistics are indeed alarming and underscore the pressing need for effective implementation of road safety measures throughout the State.

The report further reveals that every district has a District Road Safety Committee, headed by the concerned Collector, which is required to hold regular meetings to review road safety measures, identify accident-prone locations, and recommend preventive as well as corrective measures for reducing road accidents. However, from the material placed before this Court, it appears that in District Surguja, only one meeting of the District Road Safety Committee was convened during the relevant period, which prima facie reflects inadequate monitoring of road safety issues at the district level. The report also identifies ten accident-prone black spots across the State where road

accidents have occurred with high frequency, thereby requiring immediate intervention by the concerned authorities through appropriate engineering improvements, traffic management measures, installation of safety devices, and strict enforcement of traffic regulations.

Having regard to the alarming number of road accidents, fatalities and injuries reflected in the report, this Court is of the considered opinion that road safety cannot be treated as a routine administrative exercise. It requires continuous coordination and concerted efforts on the part of all the stakeholders, including the Transport Department, Public Works Department, Police Department, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), and the District Administration. Regular meetings of the District Road Safety Committees are indispensable for effective monitoring, identification and rectification of black spots, review of accident data, and implementation of preventive measures. The respondents are, therefore, expected to ensure strict compliance with the road safety framework and place on record a comprehensive action taken report indicating the measures adopted for rectification of the identified black spots, the frequency of meetings held by the

District Road Safety Committees in each district, and the concrete steps taken to reduce road accidents and fatalities across the State.

Considering the aforesaid facts and the material placed on record, particularly the alarming statistics relating to road accidents, the status of the ongoing road projects, the identification of accident-prone black spots, and the functioning of the District Road Safety Committees, the Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur, and respondent No.11/Regional Officer, Regional Office, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Raipur, are directed to file their respective affidavits before the next date of hearing indicating the action taken in compliance with the earlier directions of this Court, the steps taken for rectification of the identified black spots, improvement of road safety, and the proposed timeline for implementation of the remaining measures.

Let the matter be again listed on **06.08.2026**, by which date affidavit be filed by the aforesaid authorities as directed above.

Sd/-  
(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)  
**Judge**

Sd/-  
(Ramesh Sinha)  
**Chief Justice**