215-A CRM-M-44831-2023

NIDHI VS STATE OF PUNJAB

Present: Mr. Satnam Singh, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Amish Sharma, AAG, Punjab.

In pursuance of the order dated 11.09.2023, affidavit of Sh.

L.K. Yadav, IPS, Director, Bureau of Investigation, Punjab, Chandigarh has

been filed by learned State counsel. The same is taken on record. Copy

thereof has been furnished to the counsel opposite.

2. Para 3 of the affidavit reads as under:

"That in compliance with the aforesaid order of this Hon'ble Court, information regarding the total number of deaths reported in the State of Punjab on account of overdose of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances during the period from 01.04.2020 to 31.03.2023 has been obtained from the field units. The aforesaid information has been compiled in the Bureau of Investigation, Punjab, which reveal that 266 deaths were reported in the State of Punjab due to overdose of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances during the period from 01.04.2020 to 31.03.2023.

The compilation of unit-wise as well as year-wise information for the period from 01.04.2020 to 31.03.2023 regarding the aforesaid 266 deaths in State of Punjab is enclosed alongwith and marked as 'ANNEXURE R-1'."

3. Perusal of the above extract reveals that 266 deaths have been reported in the State of Punjab during the period from 01.04.2020 to 31.03.2023 on account of overdose of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances consumption.

4. The data also indicates that death rate is increasing and as such, the situation is very precarious.

5. In view of the above, let copy of this order alongwith affidavit dated 20.09.2023 (*supra*) be brought to the notice of Chief Secretary, State of Punjab for taking further necessary actions, as per law.

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6. Posted for 09.10.2023.

7. In the meanwhile, petitioner shall join investigation before the Investigating Officer. In the event of arrest, the Arresting Officer would admit her to interim bail in the present case, till the next date of hearing, on furnishing adequate bail and surety bonds to his satisfaction. The petitioner is also directed to abide by all the conditions as envisaged under Section 438(2) of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

8. Be shown in the urgent list.

21.09.2023 Jasmine Kaur

(MAHABIR SINGH SINDHU) JUDGE

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