

IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA

APPELLATE SIDE

WPA 4011 of 2024

The Court's on its Own Motion

Vs.

State of West Bengal

BEFORE:

The Hon'ble JUSTICE APURBA SINHA RAY

Date: 13th February, 2024.

Appearance:

Mr. Debasish Roy, Learned Public Prosecutor.

Mr. Jayanta Narayan Chattopadhyay, Adv.

The Court: I have been grossly disappointed after going through several newspapers and electronic media reportings where it has been reported that a good numbers of ladies in Sandeshkhali, North 24 Parganas have been sexually assaulted at gun points. It has been also alleged in the newspaper namely, Anandabazar, Indian Express and many other newspapers including different electronic media on 9th February, 2024 as well as 10th February, 2024 that the tribal lands were taken away forcibly in violation of all legal formalities and laws. It is learnt that there are certain violence over the properties of the innocent people.

The learned Public Prosecutor Mr. Debashis Roy is present before me and he has also submitted that this Court has power under Article 226 of the Constitutional of India to take *suo moto* cognizance of the relevant matters

which are going on in Sandeshkhali area of the State of West Bengal. However, the learned Public Prosecutor has submitted that the learned Advocate General of the State is the appropriate person who will address or satisfy this Court on any query over the matter.

However, considering all the aspects I am constrained to take *suo moto* cognizance over the alleged incidents in respect of only the allegation of sexual assaults of ladies in Sandeshkhali, North 24 Parganas at gun points and transfer of lands of tribal people in violation of relevant laws.

I also request Mr. Jayanta Narayan Chattopadhyay to act as an amicus curiea and Mr. Chattopadhyay has agreed to assist this Court. The learned Public Prosecutor has also submitted that in addition to the learned Advocate General of the State, he will also assist the Court in this matter.

Issue notice upon the State, the Inspector General of Police, DIG of Police (Barasat Range), Superintendent of Police & District Magistrate of North 24 Parganas.

List this matter on 20th February, 2024.

This order may be communicated to the Registrar General, High Court Calcutta for taking appropriate steps.

The Registrar General is requested to communicate this order to the concerned persons mentioned above.

(APURBA SINHA RAY, J.)