

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI

W.P.(PIL) No.3498 of 2021

Court on its own motion

Versus

The State of Jharkhand & Others ... Respondents

**CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUJIT NARAYAN PRASAD**

For the State : Mr. Piyush Chitresh, A.C. to A.G.

For the U.O.I. : Mr. Rajiv Sinha, A.S.G.I.

ORAL ORDER

07/Dated 21st January, 2022

The matter has been taken up through video conferencing.

2. Reference may be made to the order dated 17.12.2021, in pursuance thereto, Mr. A.K.Rastogi, at present working as Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Jharkhand & Head of the Forest Force, Jharkhand and Mr. Rajiv Ranjan, Chief Wildlife Warden, Jharkhand have appeared.

3. Mr. Piyush Chitresh, learned A.C. to Advocate General, has submitted that one affidavit has also been filed referring therein the action plan which is to be taken for the purpose of increase of fauna in the forest across the State of Jharkhand.

4. We have perused the aforesaid affidavit but after going through it, we find therefrom that only the action to be taken in future has been stated.

It further appears that no concrete steps have yet been taken save and except making correspondences to the

functionaries of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India.

We are not satisfied with the aforesaid affidavit because this Court has taken *suo moto* cognizance of the matter in the month of September, 2021 but even after lapse of about more than three months, no concrete steps have been shown to be taken by the Forest Department of the State of Jharkhand. Therefore, this Court is of the view that the steps to reclaim the fauna, which are required to be taken by the functionaries of the Forest Department of the State, are not being taken.

5. However, at this juncture, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest has sought for two weeks' time so that he may be able to show the work in the field.

6. Therefore, we are not passing any further order against the non-action on the part of the Forest officials, rather we are adjourning the matter for two weeks so that on the next date of hearing the vision document and the reference of the availability of village in the area falling in the forest reserve of the State, be brought on record.

Apart from that, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest is directed also to apprise this Court as to what step is to be taken for reclaiming the fauna even by procuring it from neighbouring States.

7. This Court, taking into consideration the large ramification of the issue that apart from flora, fauna is also necessary to maintain the ecological balance and sustainable

development, deems it fit and proper to monitor the matter.

8. Accordingly, let this matter be posted on 04.02.2022.

Let the Secretary, Department of Environment and Forest and Climate Change, Jharkhand as also the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Jharkhand and Chief Wildlife Warden, Jharkhand appear before this Court on the next date along with the vision document and the full map of village near the forest.

(Dr. Ravi Ranjan, C.J.)

(Sujit Narayan Prasad, J.)

Birendra/-