

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI
W.P.(P.I.L) No.1139 of 2024**

Court on its own motion

Versus

The State of Jharkhand

..... **Respondent**

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJESH KUMAR

For the State

: Mrs. Amrita Kumari, A.P.P

/Dated: 28th February, 2024

1. Mr. Aman Kumar, the Superintendent of Police, Khunti, is present before this Court in pursuance of order dated 21.02.2024, passed in B.A. No.8450 of 2023.

2. It has come to the notice of this Court while interacting with the Superintendent of Police, Khunti that in the Khunti district cultivation of opium is going on at a large scale. Thousand of acres of land are being utilized for the cultivation of opium.

3. The Superintendent of Police, Khunti, has admitted and submitted before this Court that the police have destroyed the cultivation of opium on a large scale. In the last year, they have destroyed the cultivation of opium on an around 2200 acres and this year also, they have destroyed on an around 1400 acres of opium cultivation, but this is not sufficient. The Superintendent of Police, Khunti, has admitted that the existing force is not sufficient to deal with the issue and he needs more man power and other facilities to deal with the situation.

He has further stated that most of the time, charge-sheet is being filed without any F.S.L report because there is delay in conducting the test due to the paucity of the facilities or man power and this aspect of the matter also requires to be taken care of in the interest of justice.

4. This Court finds that Khunti is a tribal district and large producer of opium. This situation is not acceptable to any civilized society.

5. In above view of the matter, this Court takes judicial notice of the aforesaid facts and as such *suo moto* a public interest litigation is being initiated.

6. Let the following officials of the Govt. of Jharkhand be added as respondents :-

- (i) The State of Jharkhand through the Chief Secretary, Government of Jharkhand.
- (ii) The Home Secretary, Government of Jharkhand.
- (iii) The Deputy Commissioner, Khunti

(iv) The Superintendent of Police, Khunti.

7. The office is directed to do the needful in registering the public interest litigation.

8. Let this matter be placed before appropriate Bench after obtaining due permission from Hon'ble the Acting Chief Justice.

(Rajesh Kumar, J.)

Chandan/-