

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR  
AT IMPHAL**

**PIL No. 25 of 2023**

Aribam Dhananjoy Sharma @ Paojel Chaoba & 2 ors.

**...Petitioner/s**

**Vs.**

State of Manipur & 4 ors.

**...Respondent/s**

**With**

**PIL No. 28 of 2023**

**PIL No. 29 of 2023**

**PIL No. 30 of 2023**

**WP(C) No. 441 of 2023**

**B E F O R E**

**HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AHANTHEM BIMOL SINGH  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE A. GUNESHWAR SHARMA**

**27-06-2023**

**(A. Bimol Singh,J)**

Mrs. G. Pushpa, learned counsel appeared for the petitioner in PIL No. 25 of 2023; Mr. Kh. Mani, learned senior counsel assisted by Mr. M. Raksh, learned counsel for the petitioner in PIL No. 29 of 2023; Mr. L. Birjit, learned counsel for the petitioner in PIL No. 30 of 2023; Mr. H. Tarunkumar, learned counsel and Ms. Geetarani, learned counsel appeared for the petitioner in PIL No. 28 of 2023 and Mr. A. Gautam Sharma, learned counsel for the petitioner in WP(C) No. 441 of 2023. Heard Mr. M. Rarry, learned counsel appearing for the State respondents, Mr. Kh. Samarjit, learned DSGI assisted by Mr. Armananda, learned counsel appearing on behalf of the officials of the Central Government, Mr. S. Samarjeet, learned counsel representing the Airtel, Reliance & Jio service providers, Mr. T. Momo,

learned counsel representing Vodafone/Idea service provider and Mr. B.R. Sharma, learned counsel representing BSNL service provider. Ms. N. Jyotsana, learned counsel assisting Mr. M. Devananda, learned Addl.AG is also present on behalf of the State respondents in PIL No. 29 of 2023.

**[2]** As directed earlier by this Court, the official of the service providers as well as other respondents are present before this Court through Virtual mode.

**[3]** Mr. Kh. Samarjit, learned DSGI submitted that in view of the issue raised in the present writ petition, it will be appropriate to implead the Ministry of Telecommunication represented by the Secretary, Government of India and the DGM, Department of Telecommunication, Manipur as party respondents in this batch of petitions.

**[4]** Considering the nature and issues raised in this batch of cases, we are of the considered view that it will be appropriate to implead the Ministry of Telecommunication represented by the Secretary, Government of India as well as the Deputy Director General, Department of Telecommunication, Manipur as respondents in all this batch of cases. Accordingly, Registry is directed to implead the said two officials as respondents in all these cases. Since, Mr. Kh. Samarjit, learned DSGI has entered appearance on behalf of the newly impleaded respondents, no formal notice is called for.

**[5]** Mr. M. Rarry, learned counsel appearing for the State respondents placed before this Court an order dated 26-06-2023 issued by the Director, Department of Information Technology, Government of Manipur constituting an Expert Committee in terms of the earlier direction given by this Court. After a detail deliberation and as suggested by the counsel appearing for the parties, it is decided that the Members of the said Committee will consist of the following officials :-

1.	Shri G. Robert Sharma, Joint Director (DIT), Government of Manipur	- Chairman
2.	Shri Priyokumar Naorem, Joint Director(IT), NIC, Manipur	- Member
3.	Shri K. Gopal Krishna Sharma, Joint Director(IT), NIC, Manipur	- Member
4.	One representative from the Department of Telecommunication, Manipur	- Member
5.	Shri Salam Priyokumar Singh, DGM (Operation), BSNL Manipur	- Member
6.	Shri Qazi Imran, DGM, Reliance/Jio	- Member
7.	Shri Ashish Bansal, GM(Network), Airtel	- Member
8.	Shri Jashan Sadana, GM(Network), Airtel	- Member
9.	Shri Mrinal Kanti Sarkar, GM, Regional System Engineer Data Core, Vodafone Idea Ltd.	- Member
10.	Shri K. Vivek Meitei, Informatics Officer, (DIT), Government of Manipur	- Member
11.	Smt. Naobisana Louremba, Consultant (SeMT), Manipur	- Member
12.	Shri L. Martha Khuman, Informatics Officer(DIT), Government of Manipur	- Convener

**[6]** The object and purpose of constituting the committee is to entrust to them the task of finding a solution to provide limited internet services to the public by blocking the social media network/websites.

**[7]** The Members of the Committee are requested to have a joint meeting and to discuss and to find a solution with regard to the following issues :-

- a) Whether it is feasible to provide limited internet services to the public by blocking the social media websites/platforms to mitigate the hardship faced by the public on account of the total ban imposed by the State Government on providing internet services in the State of Manipur;
- b) Whether it is possible to block third party Private Virtual Network (PVN) servers to ensure providing of limited internet services to the public by blocking social media websites;
- c) Any other way or solution for providing limited internet service to the public by blocking the Social Media Websites/platforms.

**[8]** Taking into consideration the Public interest involved, the Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur is directed to facilitate a joint meeting of the members of the said committee as soon as possible. The Members of the Committee are directed to submit a detail report in terms of the issues indicated herein above on or before the next date without fail. Further all the members of the Committee are also

requested to be present before this Court to assist this Court at the time of hearing of all these cases.

List these cases again on 06-07-2023.

**[9]** In the meantime, the petitioners are directed to submit representation to the Secretary (Home), Government of Manipur by giving the names of the institutions/centres where computer based examinations like NEET, CUET etc. are held so that the State Government can arrange for providing internet services in those institutions/centers to facilitate the students in the ongoing admission process.

**[10]** A copy of this order be furnished to all the counsel appearing for the parties during the course of the day for doing the needful. Registry is also directed to furnish a copy of this order to the Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur and the Secretary (Home), Government of Manipur for their information and necessary action.

**JUDGE**

**JUDGE**

*Dhakeshori*