

Case :- P.I.L. CIVIL No. - 17248 of 2019

Petitioner :- Satyendra Kumar Singh

Respondent :- Union Of India through Secretary & Others

Counsel for Petitioner :- S.K. Singh (In Person)

Counsel for Respondent :- Standing Counsel, Q.H. Rizvi,
Advocate

Hon'ble Rajesh Bindal, Chief Justice

Hon'ble Jaspreet Singh, J.

Present writ petition has been filed in the public interest raising an issue that the State has not taken any action in respect of liquor tragedy which occurred in District Barabanki and District Sitapur on 28 May, 2019.

This Court by means of order dated 19.07.2019 required the State to file an affidavit within a period of four weeks. In pursuance thereto, the affidavit has been filed by the Additional Chief Secretary (Home) dated 16.08.2019. The said affidavit gives the details of the action taken in pursuance of the incident. It has been specifically stated that number of officers in the Excise Department were placed under suspension in contemplation of a departmental inquiry. The departmental inquiry has also been initiated against the officers/officials who were found prima facie responsible.

It has also been stated in the affidavit that action has also been taken against police officials for dereliction of duties and ten First Information Reports were registered for various offences. The affidavit also furnishes the details of various cases registered for illicit liquor in the last five years to indicate that wherever such incidents were reported, prompt action was taken by the State. It has also been specifically mentioned that families of 23 victims have also been given financial aid of ₹2,00,000/- each from the discretionary funds of the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

Further details have also been mentioned with reference to the fact that in March, 2019, the Excise Department carried out a special drive to check illicit liquor and in furtherance thereof huge quantity was recovered and 2498 cases were registered and 45 vehicles were confiscated. Similar action was taken in May, 2019 as well. Special Drive was launched in the first week

of June, 2019. The guidelines dated 30.06.2019 have also been issued to ensure that such incidents are minimized and prompt action is taken.

From a perusal of the aforesaid affidavit, it is evident that the action has been taken by the State, though, after the writ petition was filed before this Court.

We expect that all the criminal cases registered and will the departmental proceedings initiated against the guilty officers be pursued diligently to take them to their logical end and ensure that in future these type of incidents do not occur.

No further action is required in the present writ petition. Accordingly, the same is disposed of.

Date :- 08.11.2021

Asheesh/ANK

(Jaspreet Singh, J.)

(Rajesh Bindal, C.J.)