

Sathish Ninan, J.

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I.A No.9 of 2022 in O.P No.16667 of 1996

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Dated this the 19th day of April, 2022

ORDER

Based on a news paper report, Sri. V.Ramkumar Nambiar, learned amicus curiae has placed before this Court certain apprehensions/concerns with regard to the Mental Health Centre at Thiruvananthapuram. In short the concerns voiced are:

- 1) Housing of inpatients in tin roofed buildings exposing them to the scorching summer heat.
- 2) Lack of proper ventilation in the cells/rooms at the hospital.
- 3) Housing of patients beyond the accommodation capacity of cells/rooms resulting in over crowding.
- 4) Lack of proper hygiene within the cells/rooms.

5) Patients are required to lie down and sleep on bare floor without providing mattresses, pillow or sheets.

6) Lack of necessary doctors and staff including cooks, attenders etc.

7) And generally, the non-constitution of Mental Health Review Board mandated under the Mental Health Care Act, 2017.

2. The learned Special Government Pleader points out that the Human Rights Commission has already initiated proceedings in which report has been called for from the authorities. According to him, the allegations are being looked into and being dealt with. He submits that a high level meeting was held yesterday as summoned by the Minister for Health and that urgent steps are being taken on top priority to improve the facilities at all the three Mental Health Centres in the State. Appropriate steps will be taken immediately, into the allegation regarding housing of patients in tin roofed buildings in the present hot scorching sun,

the learned Special Government Pleader submits.

3. It is deemed appropriate that the monitoring committee headed by the District Judge, Thiruvananthapuram, on due inspection, submits a report before this Court with regard to the concerns raised by the learned Amicus Curiae, within a period of ten days.

Registry to forward a copy of this order to the District Judge, Thiruvananthapuram for compliance.

Post on 29.04.2022.

Sd/-

Sathish Ninan, Judge