

Case :- PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION (PIL) No. - 533 of 2020

Petitioner :- Shashank Shri Tripathi, Advocate

Respondent :- Honble High Court Of Judicature At Allahabad
And 4 Others

Counsel for Petitioner :- In Person

Counsel for Respondent :- C.S.C.

Hon'ble Govind Mathur, Chief Justice

Hon'ble Ramesh Sinha, J.

Heard learned counsel for the petitioner in person, Sri Neeraj Tripathi, learned Additional Advocate General assisted by Sri Shashank Shekhar Singh, learned Additional C.S.C. appearing on behalf of the State-respondents, Sri Gyan Prakash, learned Assistant Solicitor General of India and Sri Ashish Mishra, learned counsel for the High Court.

This public interest litigation has been instituted by a practicing Advocate of this Court to have a writ in the nature of mandamus commanding the State of Uttar Pradesh and its functionaries to ensure suitable precautionary steps to prevent infection of COVID-19 (Novel Corona Virus) in the premises of Allahabad High Court at Allahabad as well as at Lucknow. A direction is also sought for instituting a High Level Precautionary Committee of experts for the purpose of prevention of COVID-19 in the premises of the High Court.

As per the averments contained in the petition for writ, a big number of people are visiting the Court premises every day and in this huge foot fall there may be persons infected by COVID-19. Necessary precautionary steps thus, are required to be taken to identify such infected persons as well as to prevent the spread of the virus which is going to be a world wide epidemic. Certain documents have also been annexed with the petition for writ disclosing seriousness and fatal effects of the virus.

Learned counsel for the High Court submits that the Registrar (Protocol) of the High Court by a communication dated 7th March, 2020 requested the Chief Medical Officer, Prayagraj to take certain precautionary measures to check the spread of COVID-19.

In a response, the Chief Medical Officer, Prayagraj has conveyed that a team has already been sent to the High Court premises for anti mosquito spray and fogging and further

certain teams have been constituted for rapid response to the expansion of the COVID-19, if any.

The steps as disclosed by the Chief Medical Officer, Prayagraj does not appears to be quite effective. However, the State of Uttar Pradesh has issued certain advisories and has also taken certain steps to check COVID-19.

On going through the steps said to be taken by the State Government, we deem it appropriate to get compliance of the same at earliest. The respondent-State shall also file a complete report of the compliance of the steps notified by it on or before next date of listing.

So far as the High Court premises at Allahabad as well as at Lucknow are concerned, the Registrar General is directed to take all necessary steps immediately in consonance to the policy of the State Government including installation of Infrared Thermal Scan Device. The High Court administration shall also ensure zero error cleanliness in entire campus.

Let this petition for writ be listed on 17th March, 2020.

Order Date :- 8.3.2020

Bhaskar

(Ramesh Sinha, J.)

(Govind Mathur, C.J.)