

A.K.JAYASANKARAN NAMBIAR, J

&

SHAJI P. CHALY, J.

UNNUMBERED I.A.

IN

WP(C) NO. 23724 OF 2016 (SUO MOTU)

Dated this the 3rd day of April, 2020

ORDER

A.K. JayasankaranNambiar, J.

When this matter was taken up today, the learned amicus curiae Smt. Parvathi Menon refers to the statement filed on behalf of the first respondent State Government, detailing the steps taken by them for providing food and shelter to the migrant workers who were not able to leave for their homes outside the State, pursuant to the outbreak of the COVID 19 virus pandemic. She points out that while it cannot be denied that the State Government has taken significant measures to ameliorate the hardship faced by the said migrant workers, it would be desirable that the continued efforts of the State Government are monitored at the District level and by this Court so as to ensure that the assurances given by the State Government before this Court actually materialize on the ground. She suggests that a nodal officer be identified by the State Government in each District and the said officer, work in co-ordination with the Taluk Legal Services authorities concerned, so as to ensure

effecting implementation of the measures taken by the State Government.

2. Learned Additional Advocate General Sri. Ranjith Thampan appearing for the State Government would submit that District Labour Officer concerned has been identified by the State Government as the Nodal Officer for implementation of the State's proposals, and that the State Government has no objection to the Taluk Legal Services Authorities co-ordinating with the District Labour Officers concerned for such implementation.

3. Taking note of the above submissions we issue the following directions;

- (i) The District Labour Officers concerned shall, in co-ordination with the respective Taluk Legal Services Authorities, monitor the effective implementation of the steps taken by the State Government in providing food, shelter and other essential commodities and services to the migrant workers in the State, during the lockdown period.
- (ii) The State Government, as also the authorities mentioned above, shall also take note of the directions issued by the Supreme Court in the order dated 31.03.2020 in WP (C) No.468/2020 that directs the State Government and other authorities to strictly abide by the directives issued by the Union of India in these matters.

- (iii) The above directions shall remain in force till the next date of posting of this case viz. 17.04.2020. We make it clear, however, that in the event of any urgent orders being required to safeguard the rights of the migrant workers in the meanwhile, the amicus curiae is at liberty to move this court even before the next date of posting.

A.K.JAYASANKARAN NAMBIAR, JUDGE

SHAJI P. CHALY, JUDGE