

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

ADHOC NO. WP-LD-VC- 31 OF 2020

WRIT PETITION (STAMP) NO. OF

Suresh N. Lad & Anr.	...Petitioners
vs.	
Union of India & Ors.	...Respondents

Mr.Gaurav Parkar for Petitioners.
Mr.PP. Kakade, Government Pleader with M.M. Pabale, AGP for State.
Mr.Anil C. Singh, learned Additional Solicitor General with Aditya Thakkar
and D.P. Singh for Union of India.

CORAM : S.C. GUPTE, J.

DATE : 5 MAY 2020

P.C. :

The subject matter of the present petition concerns supply of essential goods to Matheran, which is declared as an eco-sensitive zone. The zone consists of 89 villages. The grievance of the Petitioners is that whereas so far essential goods were being supplied to the entire zone at the gate, which is about three and half kms. from the core area of Matheran, vehicles not being permitted beyond this gate and into the core area, due to unavailability of men and hand carts as a result of the lock-down ordered due to Covid-19 pandemic, it has become extremely difficult for the locals to ferry the supplies to the core area inside the zone. The prayer in the petition is for permission to take vehicles from the main gate and upto the core area so as to enable the residents to secure essential goods during the present lock-down period necessitated by Covid-19 pandemic. In the alternative, the Petitioners pray for drawing up of a plan by the State to ensure supply of goods to the residents of the zone.

2 Mr.Anil Singh, learned Additional Solicitor General, seeks time to take instructions in this behalf, concerning, particularly, whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) can grant some relaxation in this behalf. Even learned AGP for the State seeks time to see if the State Monitoring Committee can issue any appropriate directions in this behalf. With a view to enable both the State and the Union Governments to formulate their response, the petition is stood over to 8 May 2020.

3 This order will be digitally signed by the Private Secretary of this Court. All concerned will act on production by fax or email of a digitally signed copy of this order.

(S.C. GUPTE, J.)