

02. 28.05.2020 This writ petition by way of public interest has been preferred by Ananga Kumar Otta-petitioner *inter alia* alleging that several cases have been reported in the State of Orissa where identity of the persons who test positive to Coronavirus (COVID-19) and are under treatment in Government Hospitals/other Hospitals or are under quarantine in various Quarantine Centres, has been publicized/disclosed in intra-departmental communications and various media platforms including social media, much contrary to the advisory issued by the Government of India in this behalf.

Issue notice to the opposite parties.

Mr. K. C. Kar, learned Central Government Counsel accepts notice on behalf of opposite party No.1. Let one extra copy of the writ petition be served on him.

Mr. A.K. Parija, learned Advocate General assisted by Mr. M.S. Sahoo, learned Additional Government Advocate, accepts notice on behalf of the opposite party Nos.2, 3 and 4. Let three extra copies of the writ petition be served in his office.

In the meantime, the respondents-State authorities are directed to ensure that identity of any person, who is admitted to Covid centres-any Government Hospital/private Hospital or any Quarantine centre in the State, found infected with Coronavirus (COVID-19) is not disclosed/publicized either in any intra-departmental communication or in any media platform including social media.

Learned Advocate General has assured the Court that necessary steps shall be taken to ensure compliance of the guidelines issued by the Government of India and the order of this Court, to secure the aforesaid purpose.

List this matter on 04.06.2020.

(Mohammad Rafiq)
Chief Justice

(Dr. B.R. Sarangi)
Judge