

**The High Court of Madhya Pradesh**

**WP No.8914/2020**

(In Reference (Suo Motu) vs. Union of India and others)

**Jabalpur, Dated : 26.06.2020**

**Hearing convened through Video Conferencing:**

A letter dated 11.06.2020 has been forwarded by the Secretary General of Supreme Court of India addressed to the Registrar General of this Court along with a copy of letter dated 08.06.2020 of Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi, whereby he has highlighted the problem of an elderly man, who was tied to the bed in a Hospital in Madhya Pradesh, when he failed to pay the fees for his treatment. The author of the said letter has requested that such acts amount to violation of fundamental right i.e. right to live with dignity.

It has been further stated by the Secretary General that the aforesaid letter of Dr. Ashwani Kumar was placed before Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India, whereby His Lordship has been pleased to direct and forward a copy of the said letter to the Chief Justice of this Court, with a request to look into the matter and take appropriate steps whatsoever His Lordship may deem fit.

The said letter has been treated as Public Interest Litigation as the matter is very serious in nature.

Office is directed to implead (1) Union of India, through Secretary, Ministry of Health, New Delhi; (2) State of Madhya Pradesh, through

Principal Secretary, Department of Health, Vallabh Bhawan, Bhopal; (3) Collector, Shajapur, District Shajapur; and (4) Chief Medical Officer, District Hospital, Shajapur as respondents and issue notice to them.

Mr. J.K. Jain, Assistant Solicitor General appears and accepts notice on behalf of respondent No.1/Union of India.

Mr. R.K. Verma, Additional Advocate General appears and accepts notice on behalf of respondent Nos.2 to 4/State.

Learned counsel for the respondent Nos.2 to 4/State submitted that action has been initiated against the concerned Hospital and F.I.R. has already been lodged. It is submitted that the person who was detained, after waiving the bills, has also been freed.

Learned counsel appearing for respondents pray for time to file the latest status report.

Copy of the reference be supplied to the counsel for the respondents through e-mail who may file their response before the next date of hearing.

To come up for further consideration on 06.07.2020.

**(AJAY KUMAR MITTAL)**  
**CHIEF JUSTICE**

**(VIJAY KUMAR SHUKLA)**  
**JUDGE**