Page - 1 of 2 WWW I IVFI AW IN

HIGH COURT OF TRIPURA AGARTALA

W.P(C) (PIL) No. 04 of 2015

For Petitioner(s) : Ms. P. Sen, Advocate.

For Respondent(s) : Mr. M. Debbarma, Addl. G.A.

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. INDRAJIT MAHANTY HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S.G. CHATTOPADHYAY Order

16/11/2021

(Indrajit Mahanty, C.J.)

Pursuant to directions issued by this Court dated 15.03.2021, an affidavit has been filed by respondent No.2, the Animal Resources Development Department through its Deputy Secretary.

In paragraph 2(ii), it is clearly admitted by the deponent that it has been found that there are as many as 12 (twelve) pet shops running in the city of Agartala without registration and all the twelve shop owners were requested to obtain licence from the State Animal Welfare Board. Copy of the name of the pet shops and dog breeders with their locations has been annexed as R/42.

This Court records its surprise that once the authority has found the 12 (twelve) pet shops and breeding centres as being unlicensed, they were statutorily required to act in accordance with law and direct immediate closure of all such activities which cannot be carried out without the necessary licence. Consequently, we direct respondent No.2 as well as the State Animal Welfare Board and the Agartala Municipal Corporation to ensure that all such illegal pet shops and all breeding centres which are operating without necessary licence shall immediately be closed down and as and when necessary applications are made the

Page - 2 of 2

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necessary inspection shall carried out and if the same are found to be in order and then alone licences can be granted to them.

We direct compliance of our directions forthwith.

Report of compliance be filed within a fortnight from today.

This Court is further informed at the Bar that there appears also to be commercial activities in sale of wild animals and birds duly notified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Accordingly, we also direct the authorities under the Wildlife (Protection) Act to take similar action of closure of all such shops where animals and birds covered thereunder are being sold and such compliance order shall also be filed before this Court within a period of two weeks.

Similar actions shall also be taken throughout the State of Tripura.

List the matter on **07.12.2021**.

(S.G.CHATTOPADHYAY), J

(INDRAJIT MAHANTY), CJ