

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

W.P.(C) No.18607 of 2021

Sanjiv Joshi

....

Petitioner

Mr. S. Pattjoshi, Senior Advocate
and Mr. S.K. Nanda, Advocate

-versus-

State of Odisha and others

....

Opposite Parties

Mr. M.S. Sahoo, A.G.A.

**CORAM:
THE CHIEF JUSTICE
JUSTICE SAVITRI RATHO**

**ORDER
06.07.2021**

Order No.

03.

1. This matter is taken up by video conferencing mode.
2. Although in this Public Interest Litigation, numerous issues concerning COVID-19 care and treatment have been raised, at this stage, Mr. Pattjoshi, learned Senior Advocate appearing for the Petitioner urges that urgent directions are required as regards availability of RTPCR testing facilities at the rural and block levels throughout the State of Odisha. According to him, as averred in Paragraphs 7.8 and 7.9 as well as Ground 'C' of the petition, the existing facilities for testing are inadequate and with suspension of public transport, there is considerable delay in samples being collected at the block levels and being sent to the District Headquarters for testing and for the results to be obtained. He also points out that isolation centers and ambulance services are not available in the rural areas for critical patients.

3. Issue notice to the Opposite Parties specific to the above issues at this stage.

4. Mr. M.S. Sahoo, learned Additional Government Advocate accepts notice on behalf of the State-Opposite Parties and states that he will file, by the next date, an affidavit of the Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Odisha addressing the specific issues highlighted above and as averred in Paragraphs 7.8 and 7.9 as well as Ground (C) of the writ petition. The affidavit be filed with an advance copy to the learned counsel for the Petitioner.

5. List on 20th July, 2021 along with W.P.(C) No.16072 of 2021.

6. Defects be removed before the next date.

7. As the restrictions due to resurgence of COVID-19 situation are continuing, learned counsel for the parties may utilize a printout of the order available in the High Court's website, at par with certified copy, subject to attestation by the concerned advocate, in the manner prescribed vide Court's Notice No.4587, dated 25th March, 2020 as modified by Court's Notice No.4798, dated 15th April, 2021.

(Dr. S. Muralidhar)
Chief Justice

(Savitri Ratho)
Judge