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IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

W.P.(C) No.16072 of 2021

Sohan Mishra and others ***Petitioners***
Mr.L. Pangari, Senior Advocate
-versus-
Union of India and others ***Opposite Parties***
Mr.P.K. Parhi, Advocate for UoI
Mr.A. Parija, Advocate General
Mr.M.S. Sahoo, A.G.A. for O.P. No.s2 and 3

CORAM:
THE CHIEF JUSTICE
JUSTICE B. P. ROUTRAY

ORDER
05.05.2021

Order No.

02.

1. This matter is taken up by video conferencing mode.
2. The Court has examined the order dated 30th April, 2021 passed by the Supreme Court of India in Suo Motu Writ Petition (Civil) No.3 of 2021 and in particular the questions posed to the Central Government in para 37 regarding ‘vaccine capacity and disbursal’. The Court notices that specific responses have been sought from the Central Government by the Supreme Court on the steps it proposes to take for ensuring “outreach the rural areas and socio economically underprivileged sections of society including the possibility of using mobile vans, vehicles and railways to vaccinate such people as well as those living in remote areas, near their doorsteps so as to minimize their travel and potential infection with COVID-2019.” The Supreme Court has further added “Efforts must also be made that a lack of an identity proof does not create a hindrance in the process of

immunization of all individuals, specifically, the underprivileged.”

3. It must be possible to broadly interpret the expression “the underprivileged”, in the context of issues raised, to include those who, either due to age or disability or any other reason are unable to reach vaccination centres.

4. Mr. P.K. Parhi, learned Assistant Solicitor General of India states that he will seek specific instructions as to the policy the Union of India seeks to adopt to ensure availability of vaccines and the facility of vaccination to specific groups of people who are not in a position to approach the vaccination centres.

5. List on 12th May, 2021.

6. 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

(B.P. Routray)
Judge