

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI**

**W.P.(PIL) No. 1139 of 2024**

Court on its own motion

... .. Petitioner

**Versus**

The State of Jharkhand & Ors.

... .. Respondents

**CORAM: HON'BLE THE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUJIT NARAYAN PRASAD**

For the State

: Mr. Rajiv Ranjan, Advocate General  
Mr. Piyush Chitresh, AC to Advocate General  
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**Order No. 3 /Dated: 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

This “Court on its own motion” proceeding has been registered pursuant to a reference made by a learned Single Judge of this Court.

2. While hearing B.A No. 8450 of 2023, the learned Single Judge came across the illegal large-scale cultivation of opium across thousands of acres of land in the district of Khunti.

3. The order dated 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 in B.A No. 8450 of 2023 records the statement made by the Superintendent of Police, Khunti, that illegal opium cultivations spread across 1400 acres were destroyed. The Court also recorded the difficulties faced by the State Police and delays in providing FSL reports.

4. The use of narcotics and psychotropic substance is fatal for any society. The spread of drugs in the society ruins generations. It is said that the drugs work like termites which would hollow the youth power of the society and the country. A report suggests that between 2006-2013 a total number of 1257 cases were registered across the country which has now increased by 152% and swelled to 3172 cases. It is also reported that the seizures of illegal drugs have increased to 3.30 lakh kilogram between 2014-2022 the total cost of which shall be 20,000 crores.

5. A report by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime suggests that illicit money laundered through drug trafficking as per IMF “Consensus Range” shall be between 2% to 5% of the global GDP. The

analysis would show that the socio-economic impact of illicit drug and money laundered shall have severe consequences which may further perpetuate and promote criminal activities. For example, such illegal funds if invested in legal economy may create a number of problems such as distortions of the resource allocation, ‘crowding out’ licit sectors and undermining the reputation of local institutions. All such impacts would in turn hamper investment and economic growth of the country. In a scenario like this, it is therefore necessary to have a multi-pronged strategy to tackle the use, production and trafficking of drugs. To achieve the object of a ‘drug free society’, it is therefore necessary that the Central Agency works in coordination with the State Police, particularly, the State Intelligence Police.

6. The learned Advocate General who is present in the Court informs us that in Criminal Appeal (DB) No. 148 of 2021 one of us (Sujit Narayan Prasad, J.) took note of the drug menace in the State of Jharkhand and issued a series of directions in regard to which serious endeavors have been made by the State police.

7. In the order dated 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in Criminal Appeal (DB) No. 148 of 2021, this Court recorded the following directions:

“16. Let an affidavit be filed on or before the next date of hearing showing the follow up action taken in Ranchi and other districts across the State and what steps have been taken by the functionary who have been entrusted to deal with the issue, i.e., Director General (CID) and the SSP/SP of the concerned district.

17. The steps which have been taken at the end of the SSP, Ranchi is directed to continue in future also. The SSP, Ranchi is further directed to fix personal accountability upon the officer in-charge of the concerned police station if any report comes pertaining to sale and purchase of the contrabands.”

8. The learned Advocate General submits that the directions and suggestions of the Court were implemented on a Mission Mode and twenty-three FIRs were lodged in the district of Ranchi itself.

9. In the light of the observations made by this Court in different proceedings, we seek affidavits from the following authorities who shall be added as respondents:

- (i) The Home Secretary, Government of Jharkhand
- (ii) The Director General of Police, Jharkhand

(iii) The Director General (CID)

(iv) The Union of India through NCB

10. Mr. Kumar Vaibhav is appointed as *Amicus* to assist the Court.

11. Post this matter on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 before the Bench constituting Justice S.N. Prasad.

12. Let a copy of the order be served to the office of the Advocate General and given to the learned *Amicus*.

**(Shree Chandrashekhar, A.C.J.)**

**(Sujit Narayan Prasad, J.)**

Amit