

HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH, BILASPUR

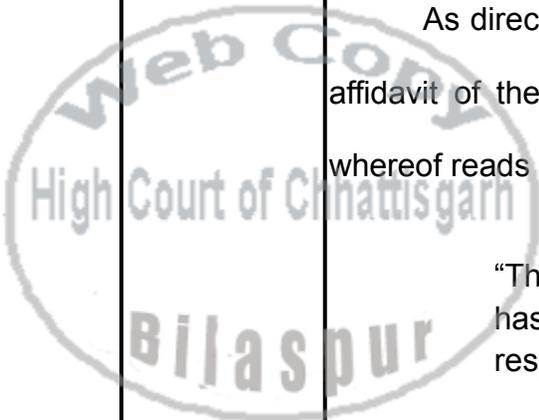
Order Sheet

WPIL No. 18 of 2024

In The Matter Of Suo Moto Pil **Versus** The State Of Chhattisgarh



15/04/2024	<p>This is an office reference registered on the basis of data collected from various jails of the State of Chhattisgarh.</p> <p>Mr. Ranbir Singh Marhas, Additional AG for the State.</p> <p>As directed by order dated 11.03.2024 passed by this Court, a detailed affidavit of the Chief Secretary, State of Chhattisgarh has been filed, crux whereof reads as under:-</p> <p>“That, by order dated 11/03/2024, this Hon’ble Court has been pleased to direct to file an affidavit with respect to the open jails in the State of Chhattisgarh.</p> <p>That, the facts and figures with regard to capacity of the jail and inmates confined are already placed before this Hon’ble Court, which describe that there are as many as 19,476 Prisoners; out of these 1,843 prisoners are skilled professionals, 504 are senior citizens and 4 attempted to escape. Apart from these, there are 340 convicts who are sentenced to undergo imprisonment for more than 20 years and their appeals have also been dismissed by the Hon’ble Supreme Court.</p> <p>That, an open jail happens to be a place where those convicts are placed who are reported to be of excellent nature during their stay in the jail. The convicts are not kept in confinement within the jail premises. The premises consists of substantial area. The security of the jail happens to be relaxed and mostly barbed wired are put as boundary. The inmates are allowed to stay in</p>





the accommodation.

That, the inmates are kept in open jail in order that after their release from jail they become self – dependent and are able to feel included in the mainstream of the society. These inmates are given training as electrician, plumber, sewing, carpentership, fabrication work, book binding, blacksmith, fisheries, pottery, cultivation of vegetables, dairy products and cultivation of foodgrains. The inmates get an opportunity to reform themselves in order to be accepted when they are released. As there was no open jail, a proposal was made in the year 2019-20 for open jail with capacity of 200 inmates at Patharra in Bemetara District.

That, modalities for Construction , the objectives for construction and opening of open jail, the kind of administrative building, nature of accommodation for the inmates and other modalities pertaining to standards for keeping the inmates have been drawn. A copy of the proposal finalized in principle is being filed herewith as Annexure A-1.

That, apart from the open jail, in order to lessen the overcrowding in jail, two special jails have been planned one at Bilaspur with capacity of 1500 inmates and one in Raipur with a capacity of 4000 inmates.

That, the difference between the open jail at Bemetara and special jails in Bilaspur & Raipur is that for open jails inmates would be selected with stringent conditions whereas the special jails are planned to facilitate training of inmates for various professional works like electrician, plumber, sewing, carpentership, fabrication work, book binding, blacksmith, fisheries, pottery, cultivation of vegetables, dairy products and cultivation of their foodgrains. This is in order that they could make a living when they are released from jail.

It is respectfully submitted that, presently open jail is being constructed at village Pathara in District Bemetara and the construction is likely to be completed by July, 2024.

That, a sum of Rs. 2212.27 lakhs was sanctioned vide letter dated 31/03/2021 for construction of the open jail.





A copy of the letter dated 31/03/2021, is being filed herewith as Annexure A-2.

That, vide letter dated 17.01.2024, the Executive Engineer, PWD, Bemetara informed about the tentative date for completion of open jail at Bemetara. Copy of the letter dated 17.01.2024, is being filed herewith as Annexure A -3.”

On perusal of the said affidavit it is manifest that State has taken initiative for establishing the open jail with capacity of 200 inmates at Patharra District Bemetara and the said construction is likely to be completed by July 2024. The affidavit further goes to show that in order to make the open jail crowd-free two special jails have also been planned, one at Bilaspur with capacity of 1500 inmates and the other at Raipur with capacity of 4000 inmates.

In view of the aforesaid affidavit sworn by the Chief Secretary of State of Chhattisgarh, let the matter be now listed in the last week of July, 2024. In the meanwhile, an affidavit may be filed by the Chief Secretary about the further progress.

Sd/-

(Sachin Singh Rajput)
Judge

Sd/-

(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice

Jyotishi/pawan