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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ W.P.(C) 3158/2020 & C.M.No.10977/2020 (*interim order*)

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE FOR
ERADICATION OF BONDED LABOUR

..... Petitioner

Through: Ms.Anupradha Singh, Adv.

Versus

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI & ORS. Respondents

Through: Mr.Rishikesh, Adv. for
GNCTD.

Mr.Anurag Ahluwalia, CGSC with
Mr.Abhigyan Siddhant, Adv. for R-2/UOI.

Mr.Jagjit Singh, Standing Counsel for
Railways.

CORAM:

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE C. HARI SHANKAR

ORDER

15.05.2020

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1. Proceedings of the matter has been conducted through video conferencing.
2. This public interest litigation has been preferred with the following prayers:-

“a) pass an order directing the respondents to Register and repatriate the migrant workers mentioned at Annexure P-2.pp to their native place;

b) Pass an order directing the respondents to appoint a nodal officer in each district who would facilitate the registration process and repatriate the workers to their native place;

c) Pass an order directing the respondents to publish the names and phone number of all the nodal officer

mentioned above in the leading newspapers, television channels and official Govt. website;

d) Pass an order to restore the online registration process on the websites mentioned at Para 13,p.15 of this petition;

e) Pass an order to restore the helpline numbers mentioned at para 15,p.15 of this petition;

f) Pass an order directing the respondents to provide adequate food and ration facilities until necessary arrangements are made to send the stranded migrant workers back home

g) any other order deem fit and proper.”

3. The grievances ventilated in this petition is related to the official website of the respondents meant for registration of migrant workers for transit to their respective native place and the helpline numbers provided in this regard, which are not properly working and also regarding the need of appointment of Nodal Officers in each district of Delhi for the same. Learned counsel for the petitioner has also annexed list of migrant workers at Annexure P-2 of the memo of this writ petition.

4. Learned counsel appearing for Union of India submitted that the Central Government had issued order dated 29th April, 2020 which prescribes, in detail, the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) regarding movement of stranded migrant workers. The detailed instructions have been issued to all the States including Delhi. The procedure for appointment of Nodal Officers and the standard protocol required to be followed have also been mentioned in the said order dated 29th April, 2020.

5. Learned counsel for respondent No.1/GNCTD submitted that Mr.P.K.Gupta, Principal Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Government

of NCT of Delhi has been appointed as State Nodal Officer and all the District Magistrates in Delhi are the Nodal Officers of their respective districts. Their names and contact details have been given on the website of Government of NCT of Delhi. Moreover, at all the relief centres where the stranded migrant workers are staying, the names of Nodal Officers and their contact details have been displayed.

6. It is further submitted by learned counsel for Respondent No.1 that so far as the list of workers at Annexure P-2 of this writ petition is concerned, they are accepting the registration of all these migrant workers and if they find any difficulty, they may contact their respective Nodal Officers.

7. It is also submitted by learned counsel for respondent No.1 that they have no objection regarding any prayer made in this writ petition. On the contrary, they are already looking into the difficulties which are being faced by the public at large and all possible actions are being taken by them to send the migrant workers to their native places.

8. Learned counsel for respondent No.3/Railways submitted that as and when such request will be received from any State, they are ready to provide the necessary trains. He further submitted that more than 800 trains have already departed, taking around 10 lac migrant workers to their native places.

9. In view of the aforesaid submissions, it appears that the respondent No.1 is ready and willing to accept the registration of the workers who want to migrate and whose names are given at Annexure P-2 of memo of the writ petition. As and when these workers will approach the concerned Nodal Officer, all care will be taken by respondent No.1 for their migration in accordance with law and in accordance with the Standard Operating

Procedure issued by Union of India vide aforesaid order dated 29th April, 2020.

10. So far as restoration of helpline number is concerned, we direct the respondent No.1 to ensure the uninterrupted working of their helpline number so that people may approach the Nodal Officers through the helpline numbers. The very purpose of helpline number is to help the people and, therefore, the same must be functional.

11. We also expect from respondent No.1 that the Nodal Officers shall remain easily available to the migrant workers so that after the online registration the follow up action in accordance with the SOP for their movement to native places be taken.

12. With these observations, this writ petition is disposed of.

CHIEF JUSTICE

C. HARI SHANKAR, J

MAY 15, 2020

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