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

+ W.P.(C) 3332/2020 & CM. 11704/2020 (interim directions)

THE POTATO AND ONION MASAKHOUR MERCHANT ASSOCIATION  
(REGD.) ..... Petitioner

Through: Mr. Sumit Rana, Advocate

versus

UNION OF INDIA AND ANR ....Respondents

Through: Mr. Anuj Agarwal, ASC with  
Mr. Shikhar Sheel, Advocate

**CORAM:**

**HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE HIMA KOHLI**

**HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUBRAMONIUM PRASAD**

**ORDER**

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**09.06.2020**

**HEARD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING.**

**W.P.(C) 3332/2020 & CM 11704/2020 (interim directions)**

1. On the last date of hearing, taking note of the averments made by the petitioner/Association in the present petition to the effect that about 1000 labourers are stranded at Azadpur Mandi, Delhi, in the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown period and they are neither being provided two square meals in a day, nor is there any shelter available to them, notice was issued in this petition and the respondent No.2/GNCTD was directed to file an affidavit.

2. An affidavit has been filed by the SDM, Model Town wherein, it is stated that there are two Hunger Relief Centres located within the Azadpur Mandi (Centre Nos.1245 and 1255) and 2 other Hunger Relief Centres are located within a radius of 150 meters, at Nigam Pratibha Vidyalaya (Co-ed), Bharola Village and Nigam Pratibha Vidyalaya (Co-ed), Sarai Peepal Thala. The

aforesaid four Hunger Relief Centres provide 1300 lunch packets and 1300 dinner packets per day to labourers and others in need. In para 8, it has been averred that there is a DUSIB Shelter Home at Sarai Peepal Thala near Azadpur Mandi, where the stranded persons including the labourers can stay. Besides the above, there are three temporary Shelter-homes established in three schools located at Model Town-III, Azadpur Colony and Dhaka Village.

3. We have enquired from Mr. Anuj Aggarwal, learned ASC appearing for Delhi Government as to how many persons can be accommodated in the DUSIB Shelter Home at Sarai Peepal Thala and the three Government Schools, referred to in para 8. He states that he has no instructions in this regard. We are of the opinion that the aforesaid information is very material as it is the stand of learned counsel for the petitioner even today, there are about 1000 labourers in the Azadpur Mandi who are shelterless.

4. Counsel for the petitioner further states that contrary to the submission made by learned counsel for the respondent No.2/GNCTD that the number of stranded labourers in Azadpur Mandi is far below 1000, as per his instructions, the figure remains around 1000, despite a number of labourers having migrated from Delhi.

5. There is no clarity as to the exact number of the labourers allegedly stranded in Azadpur Mandi. In our opinion, the SDM of the area ought to have undertaken an exercise and come up with clear figures. It is therefore deemed appropriate to direct the SDM of the area shall undertake an exercise to identify the number of labourers who are stranded in Azadpur Mandi and are in need of two square meals a day and/or shelter. The names and their numbers be shared with the Secretary, Delhi State Legal Services Authority of the area for the latter to verify the list.

6. A fresh affidavit shall be filed by the SDM, Model Town for this Court to satisfy itself that the number of meals mentioned in the affidavit filed by the respondent/GNCTD tallies with the actual number of labourers who are actually stranded and stationed in Azadpur Mandi. The aforesaid exercise shall be completed by the respondent No.2 on or before 13.6.2020 and an affidavit shall be filed on or before 15.6.2020. Members of the petitioner/Association shall also assist the SDM of the area and help in collating the requisite data. Information sought in para 3 shall also be furnished in the affidavit.

7. List on 16.6.2020.

8. This order shall be uploaded on the website of the High Court today itself and a copy thereof shall be e-mailed to the Member Secretary, DSLSA for information and compliance.

**HIMA KOHLI, J.**

**SUBRAMONIUM PRASAD, J.**

**JUNE 09, 2020**  
**sk/NA**