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

% Judgment delivered on: 28th August, 2020

+ CONT.CAS(C) 250/2020

NAYEE SOCH SOCIETY (REGD.) Petitioner

versus

AJAY KUMAR BHALLA & ORS Respondents

Advocates who appeared in this case:

For the Petitioner: Mr. M.K. Gahlaut, Advocate

For the Respondents: Mr. Sanjay Jain, ASG with Mr. Anuj Aggarwal, ASC GNCTD for UOI with Mr. Ashray Jain, Mr. Shikhar Sheel and Mr. Ankit Monga, Advocates, GNCTD

CORAM:-

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJEEV SACHDEVA

JUDGMENT

SANJEEV SACHDEVA, J.

1. The hearing was conducted through video conferencing.
2. Petitioner by this petition seeks initiation of proceedings against the respondents for alleged breach of order dated 24.04.2020 passed in W.P. (C) No. 2988/2020, titled "Nayee Soch Society (Regd.) Vs. Ministry of Home Affairs &Ors.".
3. By order dated 24.04.2020, the Division Bench of this Court had noted the contentions of the respondents that they were making ration available easily to the persons who are eligible to get ration on the basis of their Aadhar Cards, Voter ID Cards, etc. from the nearest available Fair Price Shops.

4. The Division Bench by the said order asked the respondents to look into the issue and to simplify the procedure of getting ration instead of going on the website by the poor and needy people and directed that if any change in the policy was taken, then procedure should be simplified by the respondents looking into the needs of the people at large and in case any change in the procedure was made, the same would be notified and informed to all Fair Price Shop owners.

5. Response affidavit had been filed by the respondents placing on record that procedure has been simplified and food security coverage has been provided to the person in need of food but not in possession of ration card.

6. Detailed affidavit has been filed explaining the procedure of applying of relief benefits and states that the procedure has been simplified and is accessible to all sitting in the comfort of their homes to avoid physical movements to tender their application and persons with ration cards and without ration cards could apply and obtain free ration through public distribution system based on their Aadhar Cards and the entire process was based on self-certification and further trust was placed on individuals of their need to avail food during the time of crises and there was no exclusion criteria except for the existing ration card holders who could avail of free ration based on their ration cards.

7. Respondents have also placed on record report with regard to free meals served during the said period to over 8 lakh people. It is stated in the affidavit that wherever any call was received for requirement of food, same was duly responded to by the officers of the respondents and several steps

were taken for providing dry ration and also free meals through the public distribution system as well as other methods.

8. Respondent has also placed on record the material to show that free ration was distributed and was even provided to individuals who had physically approached the distribution centres.

9. Detailed procedure has been enlisted by the respondents in their reply affidavit as also in the supplementary affidavit filed by the respondent no. 2 showing the procedure as also the actual distribution of dry ration to non-PDS card holders through various schemes.

10. In view of the reply affidavit and counter affidavit filed by the respondents, I am of the view that no contempt is made out of order dated 24.04.2020 and further no ground is made out for taking any action against the respondents.

11. I find no merit in the petition. The petition is accordingly dismissed.

12. Copy of the order be uploaded on the High Court website and be also forwarded to learned counsels through email.

SANJEEV SACHDEVA, J

AUGUST 28, 2020

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