

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

W.P.(C) No.22528 of 2015

Registrar General, Orissa High Court, Petitioner
Cuttack

Mr. Debasis Nayak, Amicus Curiae
-versus-

State of Odisha and others Opposite Parties
Mr. Debakanta Mohanty, A.G.A. for the State
Mr. P.K. Parhi, DSG for Union of India

CORAM:
THE CHIEF JUSTICE
JUSTICE M.S. RAMAN

ORDER
06.03.2023

Order No.

18. 1. An affidavit dated 3rd March, 2023 has been filed by the Additional Labour Commissioner, Odisha placing on record as Annexure-D a note on the activities undertaken from 2021-22 to 2022-23 (till February) for the safety and welfare of inter-State migrant workmen in Odisha.
2. It is stated that the focus of the State Action Plan (SAP) is (i) tracking of migrant workers at GP level by developing a database; (ii) convergence of various departments to link migrant workers with welfare schemes of the Government for reducing distress migration; (iii) mechanism in place for coordination between States to improve worksite facilities & facilitate rescue where it is needed and (iv) creating and enabling environment for safe and informed migration through IEC and enforcement of Inter State Migrant Workmen (RE & CS) Act, 1979.

3. It is pointed out by Mr. Debasis Nayak, learned Amicus Curiae that there is no timeline indicated for completion of some of the aforementioned steps. He also draws attention to the action plan earlier placed on record with the counter affidavit of the State Government where in para 22 under the title “Convergence and coordination of different Departments” specific roles have been assigned to various Departments. He submits that the State Government should be asked to place on record a comprehensive report of the actual outcomes of the implementation of the State Action Plan with statistics.

4. It is seen from the affidavit dated 3rd March, 2023 that a survey on the migrant labourers in Bolangir, Bargarh, Kalahandi, Nuapara had earlier been completed and placed on record with an affidavit. It also states that further surveys have been undertaken in collaboration with the National Law University, Odisha (NLUO) in 477 migration-prone Gram Panchayats (GPs) in 20 Blocks of the above four Districts.

5. The updated report on completion of the above surveys be placed on record with an affidavit. The Court would also like the State Government to specify the areas in which specific directions are needed for the proper implementation of the Inter-State Migrant Workman (RE & CS) Act, 1979. The affidavit of the State Government will also specifically comply with the directions issued in para 4 of this Court’s order dated 16th November, 2022.

6. The Union of India was to file an affidavit in terms of the order passed by this Court on 16th November, 2022 about the steps taken

under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana. The said affidavit is still awaited.

7. The State Government and the Union of India will file their respective affidavits at least one week prior to the next date.

8. List on 22nd June, 2023.

S.K. Guin

