



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH, BILASPUR

Order Sheet

WPPIL No. 38 of 2024

- In the matter of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation regarding “Woman delivers baby on floor in Ambikapur’s SHC, based on news item published in Daily News Paper “The Times Of India”, Raipur Edition Dated 10-06-2024.

---- **Petitioner**

Versus

1. State Of Chhattisgarh Through Chief Secretary, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
2. Secretary, Health And Social Welfare Department, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur, Chhattisgarh.
3. The Director, Health Services, Indravati Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur (C.G.)
4. The Collector, Surguja At Ambikapur, District Surguja (C.G.)
5. The Chief Medical And Health Officer, District Hospital Ambikapur, District Surguja (C.G.)
6. The Civil Surgeon, District Hospital, Surguja At Ambikapur (C.G.)
7. Medical Officer, Sub Health Center, Navanagar, District Ambikapur, C.G.

---- **Respondents**

(Cause Title taken from Case Information System)

10.06.2024	<p>This is an office reference.</p> <p>This public interest litigation petition has been registered on the basis of a news report published in ‘Times of India’ Raipur Edition, on</p>

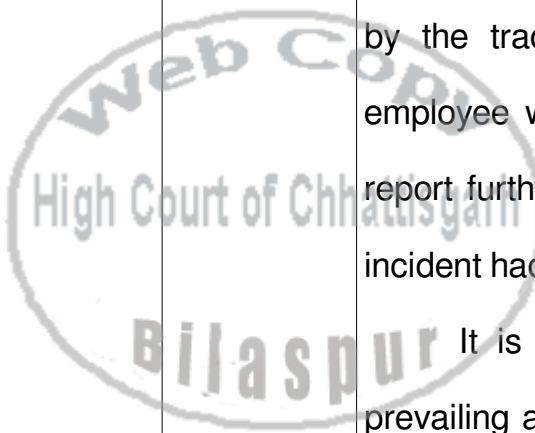


10.06.2024 with a heading 'Woman delivers baby on floor in Ambikapur SHC'.

The said news report states that a 25 years old pregnant woman delivered her baby on the floor at the Navanagar Sub Health Centre in Surguja District (Ambikapur) on 08.06.2024 and that too, in absence of any Doctor or Nurse. The said lady, on experiencing labour pain arrived at Sub Health Centre alongwith Mitanin (Community Health Worker) but neither any Doctor nor any nurse was present and the lady had to deliver the baby on the floor of the Sub Health Centre. The family members of the lady tried to contact the medical staff which remained unresponded and as such the Mitanin helped in delivering the baby. Even the postnatal care was taken by the traditional midwife from the village because only a Class IV employee was available at the said Health Centre. The aforesaid news report further goes to state that it was not the first occasion where such incident had happened.

It is a very sorry state of affair if the aforesaid is the situation prevailing at Sub Health Centre, Navanagar, Ambikapur. When the State Government is incurring a huge amount of money for providing medical facilities to the public at large residing in the remotest part of the State, and the authorities and the staff who are responsible to manage the affairs of the Health Centres are themselves are absent and missing when they are needed the most, the State ought to take some stringent measures.

Mr. Yashwant Singh Thakur, learned Additional Advocate General states that action has been taken against the concerned Medical Officer and an enquiry has been ordered and he has been placed under suspension with immediate effect. So far as the nurse, who was on duty is reported to have met with an accident, however, no documents with





respect to the same has been filed.

In view of the above, the respondent No. 2 i.e. the Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, Health and Social Welfare Department, Raipur, is directed to file his personal affidavit regarding the steps which have been taken with respect to the incident and further to ensure that the video which has been made viral online is also stopped immediately from being circulated any further. The Secretary shall also inform this Court with regard to the steps, if any, taken by him with regard to posting any other Medical Officer at the said Sub Health Centre as the delinquent Medical Officer concerned has already been placed under suspension because of the aforesaid incident.

List the case on Friday i.e. 14.06.2024.

Sd/-

(Sachin Singh Rajput)

Judge

Sd-

(Ramesh Sinha)

Chief Justice