

Court No. - 1

Case :- P.I.L. CIVIL No. - 19502 of 2020

Petitioner :- Dr. Syed Rizwan Ahmed

Respondent :- Union Of India Thru Secy. Ministry Of Home Affairs & Anr.

Counsel for Petitioner :- Sandeep Sharma,Rahul Tripathi

Counsel for Respondent :- C.S.C.,A.S.G.

Hon'ble Pankaj Mithal,J.

Hon'ble Saurabh Lavania,J.

Heard Shri Sandeep Sharma, learned counsel for the petitioner, Shri H.P. Srivastava, learned Addl. C.S.C. for the State and Shri S.B. Pandey, learned A.S.G. of India assisted by Shri Varun Pandey, learned counsel appearing for Union of India.

The petitioner by means of this writ petition seeks a direction upon the respondent Nos.1 and 2 to organize public awareness campaigns by way of hoardings and releasing informatory audio and visual programmes to educate the public regarding sexual violence and the laws on issue related to crimes against women and laws of 13th Criminal Law Amendment Act.

Every citizen of the country is presumed to be aware of the laws of the land. But even then, it may be necessary at times to create awareness. The courts may in a given case, if necessary, may issue directions for taking steps for creating awareness regarding certain laws, but filing of writ petition only for the above purpose is not proper. It appears that such petitions are filed only for the sake of popularity. Moreover, we do not find from the averments made in the petition that the Government has not taken any steps for creating awareness on the aforesaid law.

The petitioner has approached this Court after preferring the representation, on which the letter dated 04.09.2018 was issued to Joint Secretary (Judicial) C S Division, Ministry of Home Affairs thereby requesting to take appropriate steps in the matter in issue.

In view of the aforesaid facts and circumstances, in the absence of specific allegations that the Government has not taken any concrete steps regarding awareness of the said laws, we do not find it to be a fit case for issuing any direction in exercise of our extraordinary jurisdiction. This apart, it has been informed by learned Addl. C.S.C. that the State of U.P. has already launched the Mission "Shakti" for the protection and security of the women in the State. The aim of the Mission is to reduce the crime against women.

Accordingly, the writ petition is **dismissed**.

It may, however, be open for the appropriate Government to take appropriate steps in the light of the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of *Vishaka & Ors. Vs. State of Rajasthan & Ors. (1997) 6 SCC 241*.

Order Date :- 5.11.2020/SK/-