

**HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR****WPPIL No. 66 of 2024****IN THE MATTER OF SUO MOTO PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION****versus****THE STATE OF CHHATTISGARH**

03/09/2024	<p data-bbox="603 1081 1058 1122">This is an office reference.</p> <p data-bbox="512 1178 1437 1395">Heard Mr. Prafull N. Bharat, learned Advocate General assisted by Mr. Sangharsh Pandey, learned Government Advocate for the State/respondent.</p> <p data-bbox="512 1473 1437 1951">This suo moto public interest litigation has been registered on the basis of news item published in the newspaper i.e. Times of India, Raipur dated 03.09.2024 with a heading Tribal girl dies of unknown disease in Bastar with a sub-heading 'Typhoid test reports of students awaited:Doctors'.</p>

The aforesaid news report states that a class 5 girl student of Government Residential School died of an unknown disease in Baster district on Sunday, while 10 others are also ailing with 'seasonal diseases'. A team of doctors visited the hostel and are carrying out health check-ups and the girls were admitted at hospital.

The news report further states that the death of girl was reported from Kolawal girls' hostel in Bakawand block, located about 45 kms from Bastar where tribal girl Anjana Kashyap was suffering from fever; headache and nausea for past two days. According to Mr. Ganesh Sori, Additional Commissioner, Tribal Department, it was suspected that she was suffering from dengue or malaria but her test reports stated negative."

In view of above, the Mr. Prafull N. Bharat, learned Advocate General who is present before this Court along with Mr. Sangharsh Pandey, learned Government Advocate for the State/respondent

submits that the State has sought instructions and produced a copy of the report of Chief Medical & Health Officer, Jagdalpur, District-Bastar dated 02.09.2024, in which, it has been stated that minor girl/deceased was aged about 10 years and she was resident of Kanya Ashram Kolawal. It is stated that she was suffering from fever and was admitted in the hospital and after giving medication, she was discharged on the same day. But on the next day, the minor girl/deceased again came in critical condition in the hospital and medication was also given to her, but unfortunately, she died. The actual cause of her death could not be ascertained and it is stated that after her death on 01-09-2024, dead body of minor girl/deceased was handed over to her parents i.e. father and mother. It is further stated that in the presence of Sarpanch of the concerned Panchayat, with respect to the death of minor girl/deceased, there was no dispute regarding her death taking place, they have no objection and it has been informed that cremation of dead body of minor

girl/deceased has also been done.

It is little bit disturbing for us to receive the said information that cremation of minor girl/deceased has been done by her parents without the Doctors making any effort to ascertain the actual cause of death of the death of minor girl/deceased.

The learned Advocate General has also produced a copy of letter dated 02-09-2024 of Assistant Commissioner, Adivasi Vikas, Jagdalpur (C.G.) whereby it is stated that besides the death of said minor girl/deceased, there were ten other students of the said hostel who were brought to the Community Health Center and they were suffering from fever and also given medication to them, out of which, eight students have been sent back to the said hostel and two are still admitted in the hospital. It is also transpires that Typhoid test of said two students are still awaited, as has been published in the newspaper.

The learned Advocate General submits that so

far as the Typhoid test of said two students is concerned, if any test report is awaited, the report of the same shall be produced before this Court by means of an affidavit filed by the Chief Medical & Health Officer, Jagdalpur, District-Bastar.

Let the matter be placed again before this court on 11.09.2024 .

SD/-

(Bibhu Datta Guru)
Judge

SD/-

(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice