



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPPIL No. 23 of 2025

In The Matter Of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation Regarding News Item Namely- Saal 2019 Se Chal Raha Hai Tendar, Fitness Tak Nahi Kara Rahi Hai Company”, 108 Ki Gadiya Bimar, Maintenance Ke Naam Par Ho Rahi Lipapoti”, Published In Daily News Paper Haribhoomi, Bilaspur, Dated 03 February, 2025.

... Petitioner(s)

versus

- 1 - The State Of Chhattisgarh Through Chief Secretary, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur, (C.G.)**
- 2 - Secretary Health And Social Welfare Department, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur, (C.G.)**
- 3 - Secretary Urban Administration, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur, (C.G.)**
- 4 - Secretary Cum Transport Commissioner Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur, (C.G.)**
- 5 - Transport Commissioner Block C, 3rd Floor, Indravati Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur, (C.G.)**
- 6 - Director Health Services, Indravati Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur, (C.G.)**

7 - The Collector Bilaspur, District Bilaspur, C.G.

... Respondent(s)

Order Sheet

<p>03/02/2025</p>	<p>This is an office reference.</p> <p>This suo moto public interest litigation petition has been registered on the basis of newsreport published in Hindi Daily newspaper, namely Haribhoomi with a heading “108 की गाड़ियां बीमार, मेंटेनेंस के नाम पर हो रही लीपापोती” and sub-heading “साल 2019 से चल रहा है टेंडर फिटनेस तक नहीं करा रही है कंपनी”, “सरकारी वाहन है इसलिए नहीं होती है जांच” and “राज्य स्तर पर होता है टेंडर”</p> <p>Heard Mr. Y.S.Thakur, learned Additional Advocate General appearing for the State/respondents.</p> <p>The aforesaid news report states that Sanjeevani 108 vehicles, which are useful for emergency situations, are running on the roads in a dilapidated condition and the Company responsible for the same, is only doing a superficial job in the name of maintenance. On the other hand, the officials of the Health Department and Transport Department are neither checking the fitness of these vehicles nor paying attention to routine maintenance, due to which many times the patients have to face problems. 15 number of ‘108 vehicles’ are being operated in the name of Sanjeevani Express in the District, the</p>

speed of these vehicles operating since the year 2019 has slowed down with time. The special thing is that even the first aid box is missing in many vehicles. In such a situation, patients are being taken to the hospital by these vehicles, which at times causes problems in emergency situations. As per the rules, the vehicles which have run a distance of more than 3 Lakh KMs are required to be discontinued but the milometer of many of the 108 Ambulances are not working. Similarly, the seats are torn and the vehicles have also turned almost useless. These vehicles are to be regularly inspected by the DPM of the Health Department, but these vehicles have not been inspected for years. The officials of the Transport and Traffic Department come out on the roads and check vehicles, but all types of Ambulances providing health services like 108 Sanjeevani or similar are not checked on the roads. Being an essential service, they cannot be stopped on the roads, despite this, the fitness papers of these vehicles are not checked. Also, the tools and medicines present in the vehicle are not being monitored. Many times, expired medicines are kept in the vehicles. These vehicles pass through the main roads 24 hours a day and night, from cities to villages, without any stop, blaring sirens. There is no one to stop them and neither are they checked. The medicines kept in these vehicles are not checked and these medicines are distributed to the patients during the camps.

The version of the Chief Medical & Health Officer, Department of Health, Dr. Pramod Tiwari has also been published who stated that the tender for these vehicles are floated at the State level and who gives the fitness certificate is not known to him and he would inform after talking to the Nodal Officer of 108 Vehicles.

The aforesaid news report depicts a very alarming situation which may lead to any untoward incident in future. If the vehicles /Ambulances are not in fit state to be plied, how can they be allowed to run and that too carrying patients with critical conditions. If a person who has met with an accident is being taken in dilapidated Ambulances and the said vehicle breaks down in the middle of the way, what would be the situation of that patient can be easily understood. When under the prevailing laws, each and every vehicle needs to be certified with respect to its fitness, how can the Ambulances be exempted and what the authorities are doing?

In view of the aforesaid facts situation of the case, we deem it appropriate to direct the respondent No. 2-Secretary, Health & Social Welfare Department, Government of Chhattisgarh to file his personal affidavit with regard to the aforesaid news item. He shall also inform this Court as to how many 108 vehicles/Ambulances are available in each District and what are the facilities available in those vehicles, whether

they fulfill minimum requirements as may have been prescribed by the State. The Secretary shall also inform this Court with regard to further requirement of the vehicles/staff deployed in those vehicles, whether there are sufficient drivers available or not for plying those vehicles.

List this case on **14th February, 2025.**

Sd/-
(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)
JUDGE

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
CHIEF JUSTICE

Amit

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KUMAR
DUBEY

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Date: 2025.02.03
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