



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPPIL No. 40 of 2025

In The Matter Of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation Regarding News Published In Bilaspur Bhoomi, Haribhoomi, Bilaspur Dated 28-03-2025 As Follows:

Udti Dhul Va Avyawastha Ki Vajah Se Aaye Din Ho Rhe Gambhir Hadse, Maniyari Nadi Ke Dono Taraf Ki Sadak Gaddhe Me Tabdil

Jarjar Pool Par Mout Bankar Daud Rahe Bhari Vahan

... **Petitioner(s)**

versus

1 - State Of Chhattisgarh Through Chief Secretary, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur, District-Raipur, Chhattisgarh

2 - Secretary Public Works Department, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

3 - Secretary Public Health Engineering Department, Mahanadi Bhavan, Atal Nagar Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

4 - Engineer-In-Chief Public Works Department, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

5 - Collector Bilaspur, District Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.

6 - Executive Engineer Public Works Department, Bridge Division Bilaspur, District Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh

7 - Chief Engineer Public Health Engineering Department, Bilaspur, District Bilaspur Chhattisgarh.

8 - Chief Municipal Officer Barela, District Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh.

... Respondent(s)

Order-Sheet

28/03/2025	<p>This is an office reference.</p> <p>This <i>suo moto</i> public interest litigation has been registered on the basis of a news report published today in Hindi Daily, "Haribhoomi" with a heading "जर्जर पुल पर मौत बनकर दौड रहे भारी वाहन" and sub headings "उडती धूल व अव्यवस्था की वजह से आए दिन हो रहे गंभीर हादसे" and "मनियारी नदी के दोनों तरफ की सडक गड्ढे में तबदील".</p> <p>The aforesaid news relates to a bridge situated on the Mungeli-Bilaspur Road on Maniyari river. A photograph of the bridge has also been published which shows a very pathetic condition. The bridge is in so dilapidated condition that it may invite any big mishap at any point of time. The roads on both the sides of the bridge have turned into ditches. Even the bridge is so narrow that it causes traffic jam situation at most of the times. It has further been reported that being the main</p>

road, there is frequent movement of heavy vehicles and last year, one student had died because of an accident on the said bridge. A water pipeline is also on the bridge from which there is continuous water leakage and the bridge is full of water. Almost all the officers of various Departments cross the bridge every day and are aware of the situation yet nothing is being done.

The version of the Chairman, Nagar Panchayat, Barela has also been published who stated that the dilapidated condition of the bridge has been brought to the knowledge of the Deputy Chief Minister of the State. The Chief Municipal Officer, Barela has stated that he would send the information regarding the aforesaid situation to the concerned Department.

It is very surprising that despite the said bridge situated on the main road connecting Bilaspur and Mungeli, yet no action is being taken and it appears that the authorities are waiting only for occurrence of any mishappening. Had the authorities taken timely action, the condition of the bridge would not have worsen and the more delay is caused in its repair, the cost of the repair will be higher which has to be borne by the State exchequer.

In view of the above facts situation, we deem it appropriate to direct the Secretary to the Government of Chhattisgarh, Public Works Department, to file his personal affidavit to explain as to how long the

said situation is prevailing and what steps have been taken by the authorities of the Department to get the bridge and the road repaired. He shall further inform this Court as to how much amount of money has been spent towards the repair of the bridge since it has been constructed and whether any compensation has been awarded to any victim who may have lost their lives or have got injured in any accident which occurred on the said bridge.

Let the matter be listed on **15th April, 2025**.

Sd/-
(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)
JUDGE

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
CHIEF JUSTICE