



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPIL No. 84 of 2025

In The Matter Of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation Based On News Item Published In Window On Chhattisgarh, The Hitvada, Dated 13th September 2025, Namely, "Child Dies At Anganwadi Centre After Electrocution And Child Dies Of Electrocution"

... Petitioner(s)

versus

- 1** - State Of Chhattisgarh Through Chief Secretary, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur Chhattisgarh.
- 2** - Chairman And Secretary Energy Department State Of Chhattisgarh Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur Chhattisgarh.
- 3** - Managing Director Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Ltd. Vidyut Sewa Bhawan, Dagonia Raipur (Chhattisgarh) 492013
- 4** - Collector Pendra, Gaurella, Marwahi District -Pendra, Gaurella, Marwahi Chhattisgarh.
- 5** - Collector Kondagaon, District - Kondagaon, Chhattisgarh.
- 6** - Superintendent Of Police Pendra, Gaurella, Marwahi District -Pendra, Gaurella, Marwahi Chhattisgarh.

7 - Superintendent Of Police Kondagaon, District -Kondagaon, Chhattisgarh.

8- Superintending/Executive Engineer Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Ltd., District -Pendra, Gaurella, Marwahi Chhattisgarh.

9 - Superintending/executive Engineer Chhattisgarh State Power Distribution Company Ltd., District - Kondagaon Chhattisgarh.

... Respondent(s)

(Cause title taken from Case Information System)

Order Sheet

13/09/2025	<p>This is an office reference.</p> <p>Heard Mr. Prafull N Bharat, learned Advocate General appearing for the State/respondent No. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 as well as Mr. Mayank Chandrakar, learned counsel for the respondent No. 3, 8 and 9.</p> <p>This suo moto PIL has been registered on the basis of news reports published in English Daily, 'The Hitvada' Window on Chhattisgarh, dated 13.09.2025, with a heading (i) "<i>Child dies at Angawadi Centre after Electrocuton</i>" and (ii) "<i>Child Dies of Electrocuton</i>".</p> <p>The first news item relates to Kondagaon District where a 2½ year old child-Maheshwari Yadav died upon coming into</p>

contact with live wire inside the local Anganwadi Centre. The child playing inside the Anganwadi Centre collapsed immediately after receiving a severe electric shock and succumbed on the spot. The news report further states that administrative action has been taken by the District Collector and the Anganwadi Worker and the Assistant have been dismissed from service and the Supervisor of Sector Mardapal -2 has been placed under suspension for failure in supervision.

The aforesaid news further goes to state that repeated complaints made to the authorities concerned with regard to exposed wire, damaged switches and unsafe fittings in the Anganwadi Centre had remained unaddressed.

The second news item also relates to electrocution of a six year old child who died after coming into contact with an electric wire in a field near his home in Kargikala Village falling under Marwahi Police Station, Pendra, District Gourela-Pendra-Marwahi. The field owner had connected a direct supply current instead of a shock based electric fence to protect his crops from cattle. This negligence has led to the child's death. The child was reported to be playing near the field with other children when he accidentally touched the live wire and died on the spot. The Marwahi Police has registered a case of culpable homicide not

amounting to murder under Section 105 of the Bhartiya Nayaya Sanhita and investigation has been started.

The aforesaid news report depicts a very sorry state of affairs prevailing in Anganwadi Centres and the rural areas. The Anganwadi Centres are meant exclusively for the children and they are left by the parents with a hope and trust that the Anganwadi Workers / Assistants would take care of those children.

Another aspect of the matter is that it is frequently been reported that human lives are being put to stake by putting live connection to the fencing of the fields in order to protect the crops from the cattle, but human lives are being lost accidentally. There are no warning signs in and around the fencing that the same carries high voltage electric current. During rainy season, if there is heavy rain and the area is flooded with water, the nearby areas would get electrified and even if a person even if does not touch the fencing, he may get electrocuted. Such situations should be avoided at any cost.

Instances of electrocution of wild animals, cattle are also reported time and again. Unauthorised and illegal fishing have also been reported by immersing live wires in the ponds.

From the above news items, it transpires that though action

has been taken by the authorities by dismissing the Anganwadi Worker and the Assistant and placing the Supervisor under suspension and in respect of other incident at Pendra, FIR has been registered for the offence under Section 105 of the BNS, however, apart from the above, the State has to come with a road map as to what preventive measures are to be taken so that no life of human, cattle or wild animals is lost because of electrocution, whether it be in any government building/premises or agricultural field and as such, at this stage, this Court deems it appropriate to direct the Chief Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh, to file his personal affidavit with respect to the above two news items. The affidavit shall also indicate as to what sort of compensation has been provided to the bereaved family members of the deceased children.

Let this matter be listed on **22nd September, 2025.**

Sd/-
(Bibhu Datta Guru)
JUDGE

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
CHIEF JUSTICE