



**HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR**

**WPIL No. 69 of 2025**

In The Matter Of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation

**Versus**

State Of Chhattisgarh & Others

**Order Sheet**

<b>25/08/2025</b>	<p>This is an office reference.</p> <p>Heard Mr. Prafull N Bharat, learned Advocate General assisted by Mr. Shashank Thakur, learned Deputy Advocate General for the State/respondents.</p> <p>Matter pertains to sale of sharp edged weapons especially the knives in local markets and online platforms.</p> <p>On the last date of hearing i.e. on 14.08.2025, this Court had directed the Principal Secretary, Department of Home, Government of Chhattisgarh, to file his personal affidavit with respect to the news item that was published in the Bilaspur Bhaskar on 14.08.2025.</p> <p>In compliance of the aforesaid order, an affidavit has been</p>

filed by the Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Home, Government of Chhattisgarh, the relevant portion of which reads as under:

*“3. That, the deponent most respectfully submits that the knives are being illegally sold on various online sites and platforms and further there are instances of the knives being sold in some shops. That, the Police Administration taking note of the above mentioned facts has been repeatedly making request to the concerned officials of the online sites/platforms to provide the list of the person on whose request the knives (except kitchen knives) has been delivered by them. It is submitted that way back on 17.04.2025 a request was made to the nodal officer of Amazon, Flipkart, Snapdeal, Shopclues, E-Commerce sites were in a specific request was made to provide the name address and mobile number of the customers who have ordered knives for the period between January 1, 2025 to 17.04.2025. A copy of the request letter dated 17.04.2025 is being annexed herewith as ANNEXURE A/1*

*4. That, it is most respectfully submitted that again on 16.07.2025 the same request was made to the E-Commerce sites for providing the list of customers alongwith their details who have purchased the knives from the period 1 May 2025 to 16 July 2025. It is further submitted that in response to the above mentioned request by the Cyber Unit of Bilaspur Police, some of the E-Commerce sites provided the*

*list of the customers to whom the knives have been delivered. Copies of the response of the E-Commerce sites alongwith the letter of request dated 16.07.2025 is being annexed herewith collectively as ANNEXURE A/2 (Colly).*

*5. That, after receipt of the above mentioned information from the E-Commerce sites the police issued notices to the persons to whom the knives were delivered by the E-Commerce sites and the police seized the knives which were not in the nature of kitchen knives/utility knives It is submitted that the statements of total 193 persons were recorded and total 211 knives were seized from them. A copy of the list of the persons alongwith the numbers of knives seized from them is annexed herewith as ANNEXURE A/3.*

*6. That, it is submitted that surprise check was conducted by the police of various police station of Bilaspur district in various shops and during the course of such check one case was registered under section 25 of the Arms Act in the Police Station Torwa against one shopkeeper, wherein he was found in possession of 12 pieces of spring button knives. It is submitted that the case was registered vide crime 342/2025 in Police Station Torwa against the said person. It is further submitted that in the month of July 2025 two persons were found in possession of 10 pieces of spring button knives and an offence was registered against those 2 persons in Police Station Tarbahar.*

7. That, it is submitted that in Bilaspur District for the period between 01.01.2023 to 31.12.2023 total 225 cases under the Arms Act were registered and various Arms and dangerous weapons were seized from the accused persons. similarly for the period 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024 total 216 cases were registered under the Arms Act and 226 arms/weapons/sharp objects were seized from the accused persons and in the same tune for the period from 01.01 2025 to 17.08.2025 total 235 cases were registered and seizure of 250 articles have been made. A copy of the chart depicting the total number of cases registered alongwith the breakup of the various arms/weapons seized from the accused persons for the above mentioned periods is annexed herewith as ANNEXURE A/4.

8. That, it is further respectfully submitted that for the period of 01.01.2025 to 30.06.2025 total 32 cases relating to knife attacks have been registered and the accused persons have been apprehended by the police and in majority of the cases the police has submitted the charge-sheet before the competent court. A copy of the details of the 32 cases registered by the Bilaspur Police for the period of 01.01 2025 to 30.06.2025 is annexed herewith as ANNEXURE A/5.

9. That, it is further respectfully submitted that in the year 2024 total 1399 cases were registered under the provisions of the Arms Act 1959 and in the various districts including Railway Police in the State of Chhattisgarh and further for the period 01.01.2025 to

*30.06.2025 total 677 cases have been registered. That, it is most respectfully submitted that in order to put a check on the antisocial elements and in order to prevent the crime the police is regularly carrying out survey and further the police is also conducting surprise checks/Pickets and other measures are being conducted so that the criminal activities can be minimized. It is further submitted that time and again the online platforms being requested to provide timely information so that the police may take prompt action as soon as the delivery of the weapons through online mode is made to the customers, in order to prevent any untoward incidents.”*

From perusal of the above, it transpires that notices have been sent to the persons who had purchased knives online through e-commerce sites and total 211 knives have been seized. Various shops have also been checked/searched and from one shopkeeper, 12 pieces of spring button knives have been seized and offence has been registered against him. Two persons have been apprehended in the month of July, 2025 possessing 10 spring button knives and offences have been registered against those persons also. In Bilaspur District, in between 01.01.2023 to 31.12.2023, total 225 cases under the Arms Act have been registered and various arms have been seized. Similarly, during the period 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024, total 216 cases were registered under the Arms Act and 226 arms/weapons were

Amit	<p>seized. With respect to the period 01.01.2025 to 17.08.2025, total 235 cases have been registered and 250 weapons have been seized. In between the period 01.01.2025 to 30.06.2025, total 32 cases relating to knife attacks have been registered and the accused persons have been apprehended.</p> <p>The sum and substance of the above affidavit shows that in the year 2024, total 1399 cases were registered under the Arms Act and 677 cases were registered during the period 01.01.2025 to 30.06.2025.</p> <p>The aforesaid data shows an alarming picture of the situation prevailing in the society, though the State appears to be taking adequate measures so that such dangerous weapons are not sold in open markets/online platforms and we further hope and trust that the State and its agencies would be more vigilant and take positive steps in curbing the aforesaid menace which would in turn help in reducing the crime relating to the Arms Act, in the society.</p> <p>Let the matter be listed again for further monitoring on <b>22.09.2025</b>.</p> <div data-bbox="606 1724 901 1859"><p>Sd/- (Bibhu Datta Guru) <b>JUDGE</b></p></div> <div data-bbox="1085 1724 1380 1859"><p>Sd/- (Ramesh Sinha) <b>CHIEF JUSTICE</b></p></div>
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