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ITEM NO.301

COURT NO.13

SECTION PIL-W

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A  
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 324/2020

DR. BALRAM SINGH

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR INDIA AND MR. K. PARAMESHWAR, ADVOCATE (AMICUS CURIAE)

IA No. 146249/2023 - APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION

IA No. 136950/2023 - INTERVENTION APPLICATION

IA No. 131385/2023 - INTERVENTION/IMPLEADMENT

IA No. 30602/2020 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES

Date : 29-01-2025 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUDHANSHU DHULIA  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARAVIND KUMAR

Amicus Curiae Mr. K. Parameshwar, Sr. Adv.

Counsel for the parties

Petitioner-in-person

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Ms. Radhika Mohapatra, Adv.

Ms. Bhumika Chouksey, Adv.

Ms. Diksha Verma, Adv.

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Ms. Indira Bhakar, Adv.  
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Ms. Madhura Chitnis, Adv.

Mr. Pukhrambam Ramesh Kumar, Adv.  
Mr. Karun Sharma, Adv.  
Ms. Rajkumari Divyasana, Adv.

Mr. Sanjay Jain, AOR  
Attorney General For India, AOR

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following  
O R D E R

Vide order dated 11.12.2024, we directed the Union of India to coordinate with all the States and other stakeholders and get a feedback from each of the States as to what extent they have stopped manual scavenging and manual sewer cleaning. We had asked the Union of India to file an affidavit giving the State wise breakups.

Pursuant to the above order, a detailed affidavit has been filed by the Union of India. Ms. Aishwarya Bhati, learned Additional Solicitor General, has apprised this Court that out of 775 Districts in the entire country, there is no manual scavenging and manual sewer cleaning being carried out in 456 Districts.

There is no clarity as to whether at least in some of the States or at least in the Metropolitan cities, the manual scavenging and manual sewer cleaning has been eradicated or given up. That was, in fact, the intention of this Court in our Judgment dated 20.10.2023 and our subsequent orders. We are, therefore, of the considered view that this is now the time to issue directions.

We hereby intend to stop the manual scavenging and manual sewer cleaning in all the top Metropolitan cities of the country viz. a) Delhi b) Mumbai c) Kolkata d) Chennai e) Bangalore and f) Hyderabad.

We have also been informed at the Bar that in all these Metropolitan cities, which we have indicated above, all modern

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scientific machineries and tools are available for scavenging and sewer cleaning, without active human participation therefore manual scavenging and manual sewer cleaning should not be required.

We, therefore, direct that the Chief Executive Officers (by whatever name he/she is called the State) of each of the abovementioned Metropolitan cities to file precise affidavit(s) before this Court apprising as to how and when manual scavenging and manual sewer cleaning was stopped in their Metropolitan city.

Let the requisite affidavit(s) be filed on or before 13.02.2025, a copy of which shall be supplied to the Union of India and to the Ld. Amicus Curiae in advance.

Re-list the matter on 19.02.2025 at 03.15 PM.

(JAYANT KUMAR ARORA)  
ASST. REGISTRAR-CUM-PS

(RENU BALA GAMBHIR)  
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR