

2025 LiveLaw (SC) 824

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
B.R. GAVAI; CJI., K. VINOD CHANDRAN; J., N.V. ANJARIA; J.
Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 310/1996; 18-08-2025
PRAKASH SINGH & ORS. versus UNION OF INDIA

Public Interest Litigation (PIL) – Held, PIL cannot be used as a mechanism to settle scores between competing government officers - If a person is aggrieved by any action of the State with regard to his illegal removal from the service or due to denial of his legitimate claim to a post, such an officer can very well take recourse to the remedies available to him in law - PIL is a mechanism, which has been devised by the Supreme Court so as to dilute the issue of locus and permit public spirited person to approach the Supreme Court or the High Courts on behalf of persons who, on account of their social and economic backwardness, are not in a position to approach the High Courts or the Supreme Court. [Paras 4-6]

Amicus Curiae Mr. Raju Ramchandran, Sr. Adv.

For Petitioner(s) : Mr. Prashant Bhushan, AOR Mr. Rahul Gupta, Adv. Mr. Sanjay Parikh, Sr. Adv. Mr. Abhimanue Shrestha, AOR Ms. Kritika, Adv. Mrs. Anjana Prakash, Sr. Adv. Mr. Anuj Prakaash, Adv. Mr. Niraj Dubey, Adv. Mr. Pradum Kumar, Adv. Mr. Kumar Mihir, AOR Ms. Vivya Nagpal, AOR Mr. Abhishek Rai, Adv. Mr. Gyanant Singh, Adv. Mr. Ekansh Bansal, Adv. Mr. Priyanshu Kumar, Adv. Ms. Osheen Jain, Adv. Mr. Gopal Sankarnarayanan, Sr. Adv. Mr. Aditya Samaddar, AOR Mr. R K Mohit Gupta, Adv. Ms. Shreya Nair, Adv.

For Respondent(s) Applicant(s) : Mr. P. Parmeswaran, AOR Mr. Anuvrat Sharma, AOR Mr. Gunnam Venkateswara Rao, AOR Mr. Kuldip Singh, AOR Mrs. Anil Katiyar, AOR Mr. Mohanprasad Meharia, AOR Mr. Radha Shyam Jena, AOR Mr. R Bala, Sr. Adv. Mr. V Mohana, Adv. Mr. Chinmayee Chandra, Adv. Mr. Snidha Mehra, Adv. Mr. Padmesh Mishra, Adv. Mr. Raman Yadav, Adv. Mr. Chitvan Singhal, Adv. Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, AOR Ms. Ameyavikrama Thanvi, Adv. Mr. Abhishek Kumar Pandey, Adv. Mr. Kartikey Aggarwal, Adv. Mr. Mukesh Kumar Singh, Adv. Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, aor, Adv. Mr. Ashok Mathur, AOR Mr. Dharmendra Kumar Sinha, AOR Mr. Kapil Sibal, Sr. Adv. Mr. Rajeev Ranjan, Sr. Adv. Mr. Arunabh Chowdhary, Sr. Adv. Ms. Pallavi Langar, Adv. Ms. Pragya Baghel, Adv. Mr. Jayant Mohan, Adv. Ms. Aparajita Jamwal, Adv. Mr. Sujeet Kumar Chaubey, Adv. Ms. Pallavi Langar, AOR Ms. Sumita Hazarika, AOR Mr. Rajesh Srivastava, AOR M/S. Venkat Palwai Law Associates, AOR Mr. Anil Shrivastav, AOR Mr. Anil Shrivastav, A.A.G. Ms. Avni Shrivastav, Adv. Mr. Gopal Prasad, AOR Mr. R. Ayyam Perumal, AOR Mr. D. S. Mahra, AOR Mr. Gopal Singh, AOR Ms. Hemantika Wahi, AOR Mr. T. Harish Kumar, AOR Mr. T. V. George, AOR Mr. Sidharth Luthra, Sr. Adv. Mr. Guntur Pramod Kumar, AOR Ms. Purna Singh, Adv. Mr. Dhruv Yadav, Adv. Mr. Karl P. Rustomkhan, Adv. Mr. C. K. Sasi, AOR Ms. Meena K Poulouse, Adv. Mr. P. V. Yogeswaran, AOR Mr. V. N. Raghupathy, AOR Mr. Rajeev Kumar Dubey, Adv. Mr. Kamendra Mishra, AOR Mr. Ranjan Mukherjee, AOR M/S. S. Narain & Co., AOR Mr. Sandeep Narain, Adv. Ms. Kanak Malik, Adv. Mr. Lakshmi Raman Singh, AOR Mr. Sidharth Luthra, Sr. Adv. Mr. Guntur Pramod Kumar, AOR Ms. Purna Singh, Adv. Mr. Dhruv Yadav, Adv. Mr. Karl P. Rustomkhan, Adv. Ms. Eliza Barr, Adv. Ms. Disha Singh, AOR Mr. Shuvodeep Roy, AOR Mr. Deepayan Dutta, Adv. Mr. Saurabh Tripathi, Adv. Mr. Azmat Hayat Amanullah, AOR Ms. Rebecca Mishra, Adv. Mr. Merusagar Samantaray, AOR Ms. Swati Ghildiyal, AOR Ms. Deepanwita Priyanka, AOR Mr. Satyalipsu Ray, Adv. Mr. Prashant Bhagwati, Adv. Mr. B.K. Satija, A.A.G. Mr. Samar Vijay Singh, AOR Ms. Sabarni Som, Adv. Mr. Aman Dev Sharma, Adv. Mr. Gaj Singh, Adv. Mr. Ramendra Nath Makhal, Adv. Mr. T. V. Surendranath, Adv. Mr. Kirtikar Sukul, Adv. Mr. Vaibhav Vikram Singh, Adv. Mr. Rohit Bansal, AOR Mr. Kartikeya Rastogi, D.A.G. Mr. Ranjeet Saw, Adv. Mr. Parth Awasthi, Adv. Mr. Pashupathi Nath Razdan, AOR Mr. Aman Panwar, A.A.G. Mr. Sanchit Garga, AOR Mr. Kunal Rana, Adv. Mr. Abhinav Kumar, Adv. Mr. Piyush Wadhwa, Adv. Mr. Nishe Rajen Shonker, AOR Mrs. Anu K Joy, Adv. Mr. Alim Anvar, Adv. Mr. Santhosh K, Adv. Mrs. Devika A.I., Adv. Mr. Varad Kilor, Adv. Mr. Siddharth Dharmadhikari, Adv. Mr. Aaditya Aniruddha Pande, AOR Mr. Shrirang B. Varma, Adv. Mr. Pukhrambam Ramesh Kumar, AOR Mr. Karun Sharma, Adv. Ms. Anupama Ngangom, Adv. Ms. Rajkumari Divyasana, Adv. Mr. Anando Mukherjee, AOR Mr. Shwetank Singh, Adv. Mr. Gaurav Khanna, AOR Ms. Natasha Sahrawat, Adv. Mr. Gautam Barnwal, Adv. Mr. Rudraksh Pandey, Adv. Ms. Deepali Bhanot, Adv. Mr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Sr. Adv. Mr. Maninderjit Singh Bedi, Advocate General Mr. Vivek Jain, A.A.G. Mr. Mohd Irshad, A.A.G. Mr. Karan Sharma, AOR Mr. D. K. Devesh, AOR Mr. M. Yogesh Kanna, AOR Mr.

Abhishek, AOR Mr. K.M. Nataraj, A.S.G. Mr. Sharan Dev Singh Thakur, Sr. A.A.G. Ms. Ruchira Goel, AOR Ms. Indira Bhakar, Adv. Ms. Veera Mahuli, Adv. Mr. Sharanya Sinha, Adv. Ms. Ritika Rao, Adv. M/S. PLR Chambers And Co., AOR Mr. Amrish Kumar, AOR Applicant-in-person Mr. Rajiv Kumar Choudhry, AOR Ms. Kamakshi S. Mehlwal, AOR Mr. Abhik Kumar, Adv. Mr. Sanveer Mehlwal, Adv. Mr. Deepak Girdhar, Adv. Ms. Geetanjali Mehlwal, Adv. Mr. Mukesh Kumar Verma, Adv. Mr. Neeraj Kumar Sharma, Adv. Ms. Indira Bhakar, Adv. Mr. Shreekant Neelappa Terdal, AOR Mrs. Lalita Kaushik, AOR Mr. Naresh Kauhsik, Sr. Adv. Mr. Manoj Joshi, Adv. Ms. Shikha John, Adv. Ms. Devina Sehgal, AOR Mr. Yatharth Kansal, Adv. Mr. Arunabh Chowdhury, Sr. Adv. Mr. Jayant Mohan, AOR Ms. Adya Shree Dutta, Adv. Mr. Aniruddha Mahadevan Sethi, Adv. Mr. Ajay Pal, AOR Mr. Dama Seshadri Naidu, Sr. Adv. Mr. Shreeyash U Lalit, Adv. Ms. Divya Narayanan, Adv. Mr. Rahul Pratap, AOR Mr. Mukesh Kumar, AOR Ms. Astha Sharma, AOR Mr. Abhishek Atrey, AOR Dr. Abhishek Atrey, Adv. Mr. Vikas Negi, Adv. Mr. Navneet Gupta, Adv. Ms. Radhika Aggarwal, Adv. Mr. Gurmeet Singh Makker, AOR Ms. Jaikriti S. Jadeja, AOR Mr. Soumya Dutta, AOR Mr. Rakesh K. Sharma, AOR Mr. V. Balaji, Adv. Mr. Nizamuddin, Adv. Mr. K.v.d. Kishore Kumar, Adv. Mr. B. Dhananjay, Adv. Mr. Vinod K. Nair, Adv. Intervenor-in-person Ms. Astha Sharma, AOR Ms. Ruchira Goel, AOR Ms. Pallavi Langar, AOR Mr. Manish Kumar, AOR Mr. Divyansh Mishra, Adv. Ms. Shaswati Parhi, Adv. Mr. Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Sr. Adv. Mr. Maninderjit Singh Bedi, Advocate General Mr. Vivek Jain, A.A.G. Mr. Mohd Irshad, Adv. Mr. Karan Sharma, AOR Mr. S Niranjana Reddy, Sr. Adv. Ms. Devina Sehgal, AOR Mr. S. Uday Bhanu, Adv. Mr. Yatharth Kansal, Adv. Mr. K.M. Nataraj, A.S.G. Mr. Vinayak Sharma, Adv. Mr. Tanmay Mehta, Adv. Mr. Padmesh Mishra, Adv. Mr. Prashant Singh-(ii), Adv. Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, AOR Mr. Hrishikesh Baruah, AOR Mr. Kumar Kshitij, Adv. Mr. Utkarsh Dwivedi, Adv. Mr. Deep Pal Singh Alag, Adv. Mr. Kunal Mimani, AOR Mr. Prashant Alai, Adv. Mr. Sabarish Subramanian, Adv. Ms. Jahnavi Taneja, Adv.

ORDER

I.A. NOS. 136960/2025 IN W.P.(C) NO.310/1996

List on 22.08.2025.

W.P.(PIL) No.1194/2025

1. On an oral prayer made by the learned Amicus Curiae, W.P.(PIL) No.1194/2025, pending before the High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi shall stand withdrawn from the High Court and transferred to this Court.

2. To be taken up along with W.P.(C) No.310/1996 and batch in the week commencing 27.10.2025.

CONTEMPT PETITION @ DIARY NO(S). 7736/2025

1. The present contempt petition is filed by the petitioner alleging disobedience of the orders of this Court by the Chief Secretary of the State of Jharkhand.

2. It is the contention of the petitioner that the rules framed by the State of Jharkhand are framed only in order to protect one Shri Anurag Gupta. It is also the grievance that one Shri Ajay Kumar Singh was unauthorizedly removed from the post of Director General of Police.

3. The present *lis* appears to be prompted by a dispute between the two officers of the Police Department, namely, Sri Ajay Kumar Singh and Shri Anurag Gupta.

4. If a person is aggrieved by any action of the State with regard to his illegal removal from the service or due to denial of his legitimate claim to a post, such an officer can very well take recourse to the remedies available to him in law.

5. Public Interest Litigation is a mechanism, which has been devised by this Court so as to dilute the issue of locus and permit public spirited person to approach this Court or the High Courts on behalf of the persons who, on account of their social and economic backwardness, are not in a position to approach the High Courts or this Court.

6. The PIL jurisdiction, therefore, cannot be permitted to become a mechanism to settle the scores between the competing officers.

7. In that view of the matter, the contempt petition is dismissed.

8. Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

CONTEMPT PETITION @ DIARY NO(S). 8340/2025

1. Learned senior counsel appearing for the petitioner seeks permission to withdraw this petition.

2. Permission is granted.

3. The contempt petition is, accordingly, disposed of as withdrawn.

REST OF THE MATTERS INCLUDING I.A. NO.59862/2020

List in the week commencing 27.10.2025.

© All Rights Reserved @LiveLaw Media Pvt. Ltd.

*Disclaimer: Always check with the original copy of judgment from the Court website. Access it [here](#)