



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPIL No. 17 of 2025

In the matter of Suo Moto Public Interest Litigation

Versus

State of Chhattisgarh & Others

Order Sheet

24/02/2026	This is an office reference. Heard Mr. Shashank Thakur, learned Additional Advocate General for the State/respondents as well as Mr. T.K.Jha, learned counsel for the intervenor. On the last date of hearing i.e. on 17.12.2025, this matter was directed to be listed for further monitoring. Yesterday, a news report has been published in a Hindi Daily, namely Bilaspur Bhoomi with a heading “पांच हजार से अधिक स्कूलों में गर्ल्स टायलेट नहीं है 8 हजार की हालत खराब, बच्चियां छोड़ रही स्कूल”. As per the aforesaid news report, more than 5,000 schools in the State lack girls' toilets, while more than 8,000 schools have

toilets in abysmal conditions. Children and teachers are distressed by this and are constantly demanding it from the School Education Department. Children and teachers are suffering the consequences in the form of urine infections.

According to the news report, in the Bilaspur District, more than 160 schools have a major toilet problem. There are more than 200 such schools where toilets are available but are not usable. Now, however, after the Supreme Court's directive, the Education Department has finally taken action regarding girls' toilets in schools. An order has been issued to make arrangements for separate toilets for girl students in government schools / government aided schools in all Districts by 8th March. The Union Ministry of Education's U-DISE report for 2024-25 revealed that approximately 5,500 schools in the State lacked separate toilets for girls. While the rationalization process last year, involving the merger of schools, partially resolved the problem, more than 1,000 schools still lack separate toilets for girls. Schools in Bilaspur, Raipur, Korba, Bastar, and Janjgir-Champa face the greatest shortage of toilets for girls. Following Departmental instructions, repairs have been initiated in schools where toilets are dilapidated or unusable. In schools where both boys and girls study and only one toilet is available, it has been converted into a toilets for girls only. These schools have relied on

a nearly 10-year-old Departmental order to achieve this.

The number of girl students in government schools is about 19.54 lakh. It is noteworthy that during the rationalization of schools last year, the number of girls' toilet schools in the State increased due to merger. According to the 2024-25 U-DISE report of the Union Ministry of Education, there were 48,757 government schools operating in Chhattisgarh. These schools have 37.64 lacs students, of which 19.54 lacs are female students. After rationalization, the number of schools decreased to 38,000. Therefore, of the 5,500 schools without girls' toilets, more than 1,000 still lack girls' toilets.

As per the news report, the conditions in Government Schools are shameful. There is not even washrooms or toilets for female students, making it difficult for them to spend even five to six hours in school. This system is a form of oppression against girls. This could be a major reason for many female students dropping out or not attending school at all. Many schools even share a single toilet for both girls and boys, causing daily embarrassment for female students. In the state, of the 56,615 schools operating here, 54,715 have toilets for girls, but only 52,545 are usable. The situation is similar for male students; 53,142 schools have toilets, but only 49,355 are functional. This means that 4,070 schools have no toilets for girls and 7,260 for

Inder / Ved	boys. The version of the District Education Officer, Bilaspur has also been published according to whom although there isn't much of a problem in Bilaspur District, following the Departmental instructions, repairs have been initiated in schools where toilets are in dilapidated or unusable condition. Soon, all schools will have washrooms or toilets for girl students. The present PIL was registered taking cognizance of the similar situation way back in January, 2025. But from the news report as above, it transpires that there is no satisfactory improvement in the condition of toilets in the Schools in the State which is making the everyday life of the girl students very difficult. In view of the above, let the Secretary, School Education Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, file his personal affidavit with respect to the above news report, before the next date of hearing. Let this matter be listed again on 23.03.2026. The learned Additional Advocate General appearing for the State/respondents shall communicate this order to the Secretary concerned, forthwith. Sd/- (Ravindra Kumar Agrawal) JUDGE Sd/- (Ramesh Sinha) CHIEF JUSTICE
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