

HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA

MAIN CASE No: Writ Petition (PIL) No.29 of 2024

PROCEEDING SHEET

S. No.	DATE	ORDER	OFFICE NOTE
5.	05.12.2024	<u>CJ & JSR, J</u> Mr. Prabhakar Chikkudu, learned counsel for the petitioner. Mr. Gadi Praveen Kumar, learned Deputy Solicitor General of India appears for respondents No.1 and 2. Mr. Mohammed Imran Khan, learned Additional Advocate General for the State of Telangana appears for respondents No.3 to 12. Ms. Parismita Saikia, learned counsel represents Ms. Manjari S.Ganu, learned counsel for respondent No.14. 2. In this Public Interest Litigation (PIL), the petitioner has assailed the inaction on the part of the respondents in not implementing the guidelines pertaining to mid-day meals (PM Poshan) in Government Schools as well as in the schools run by the local bodies. 3. On 27.11.2024, it was brought to our notice that on 20.11.2024, 24.11.2024 and 26.11.2024, contaminated food items were supplied to the	Note: Transferred to (i/o) folder before corrections, if any. B/o lur

		students of a primary school situated at Maganoor Village of Narayanpet District, which is run by Zilla Parishad. It was also pointed out that the children to whom the mid-day meals were supplied were hospitalized. It was also pointed out that a similar incident took place in the school in Burugupalli Village of Gangadhara Mandal of Karimagar District. 4. On 27.11.2024, learned Additional Advocate General has filed two compliance reports wherein it has been stated as follows: 1. That in respect of the incident, which took place on 20.11.2024, in Maganoor Village of Narayanpet District, the Head Master of the School and the Mid-day meal incharge teacher have been placed under suspension and the vice-principal has been instructed to supervise the supply of mid-day meals to the students in the school. 2. In respect of the incident which took place on 21.11.2024 relating to supply of the worm infested food in the mid-day meal provided to the students of Maganoor Village of Narayanpet District, the agency providing the mid-day meals to the students has been removed and the assistance of cooks from social welfare hostels	
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		has been taken to ensure preparation and supply of food to the students and the entire stock of rice has been changed. 3. With regard to the incident which took place on 26.11.2024, it has been stated that on enquiry, it has been revealed that some students had consumed a snack like 'Kurkure' bought from outside the school premises. 4. In respect of the incident which took place on 22.11.2024 at ZP High School, Burugupalli Village, Gangadhara Mandal of Karimagar District, a technical team was sent immediately and the District Manager, Civil Supplies Department, examined the quality of rice, which is being supplied to the students. It has been suggested that while cooking the rice, small quantity of oil and drinking water be added to the rice. 5. It is submitted by the learned Additional Advocate General that the committees, which are required to be constituted under the PM Poshan scheme have already been constituted and are functioning. It is also submitted that in the wake of the substandard quality of food, which had been supplied to the students between 20.11.2024	
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		and 26.11.2024, a memo dated 27.11.2024 has been issued and a committee has been constituted comprising of Head Master/Principal/Warden and two other staff members working in the institution. The committee has been asked to supervise as follows: “a. The committee shall inspect the store room and kitchen before cooking every meal and ensure the quality of provisions & hygiene in the kitchen room. b. They should taste the food after every meal preparation to check food quality and then only it should be served to all children. c. Every day Committee shall take photos of the activities listed above (I and II) and shall keep it in record without fail, till the Nodal Department develops a mobile based app that would allow instant uploading of photos taken in each institution before every meal.” 6. It is submitted that in the said memo, the Collectors of Districts have been directed to ensure that Mandal/Divisional/District level officers function as supervisory officers for each of the educational institution and should visit the premises and after the food is cooked, eat the food as far as	
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		possible before it is served to the students. 7. Learned Additional Advocate General undertakes that the State shall take all steps to ensure that nutritious and healthy food is supplied to the students of Government schools and the schools run by local bodies in the State. Learned Additional Advocate General further submits that the committees constituted by the State Government, in the wake of the incidents which took place between 20.11.2024 and 26.11.2024, shall submit a report to this Court within a period of six weeks. In addition, learned Additional Advocate General shall also place on record the details of the committee constituted under the PM Poshan scheme. 8. Needless to state that the mid-day meal shall be supplied to the students as per the menu. CJ (AAJ) JSR, J LUR	
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