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HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH : AMARAVATI

MAIN CASE: W.P (PIL) Nos.226 of 2020 & 77 of 2021

PROCEEDINGS SHEET

Sl. No.	DATE	ORDER	OFFICE NOTE
12	28.04.2021	<i>(Taken up through video conferencing)</i> Heard Mr. Srinivasa Rao Narra, learned counsel for the petitioner in W.P.(PIL) No.226 of 2020, and Mr. P. Sudhakara Reddy, learned Additional Advocate General and Mr. N. Harinath, learned Assistant Solicitor General of India, on behalf of the respondents. Also heard Mr. Suresh Kumar Potturi, learned counsel for the petitioner in WP (PIL) No.77 of 2021 and Mr. S. Sriram, learned Advocate General and Mr. C. Sumon, learned Government Pleader for the State. A counter-affidavit is filed in W.P.(PIL) No.226 of 2020. A memo is filed by enclosing certain notifications in W.P (PIL) No.77 of 2021. Learned counsel appearing for the State submits that presently, there is no shortage of hospital beds and dearth of oxygen. It is submitted by the learned counsel for the petitioners that they have heard in various cases, admissions are denied in hospitals and in many cases, hospitals are demanding money and those who are unable to meet such demand, are denied admission. It is submitted by the learned counsel appearing for the State that no specific instances were brought to their notice but since statements are made by the learned counsel for the petitioners, they will certainly look into this aspect of the matter and take necessary steps. It is submitted that appropriate directions will be given to all the hospitals not to refuse admission to any patient if beds are available and that it will be made clear that strictest action in accordance with law would be taken if any such incident is found. It is further submitted that to monitor the activities of the hospitals, for each and every notified COVID hospital, Nodal Officers are appointed and their duties have also been delineated in the Notification	

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		dated 23.04.2021. The State shall file a memo on the next date fixed whether the Nodal officers appointed in the COVID hospitals have taken steps that are required to be taken by them in terms of the Notification dated 23.04.2021. We direct the State to prominently display in each and every notified COVID hospital the name of the Nodal officer as well as his telephone number so that any patient/attendant, in case of facing any difficulty in the hospital, can easily approach such Nodal Officer and seek remedial measures. It is stated that flying squads have been set up to inspect the hospitals frequently. On the next date, a Memo shall be filed indicating number of such inspections in the hospitals by the flying squads and their observations in the hospitals. The Court has impressed upon the learned counsel appearing for the State to continuously monitor the situation and prepare a road map for the future so that the authorities can effectively deal with the situation even if number of infected cases continue to rise. Let there be not a situation where the administration is caught unawares in the event of deterioration of the situation and patients are deprived of getting medical attention and treatment. It has been brought to our notice that testing results are not being given before 48 hours and sometimes it is taking even longer time. This is an area which the State must look into with promptitude as the delayed reporting may have adverse consequences and are likely to contribute to further infections because of the contact of infected people with others. All possible steps should be taken without compromising the integrity of the sample and the process involved in such testing so that test results can be given as early as possible. Though there is a notification dated 23.04.2021 which provides that COVID Care Centres shall render services to those patients who cannot maintain home	

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		isolation, it is pointed out by Mr. Potturi Suresh Kumar that he knows personally one particular case of Nagaraju of Ajit Singh Nagar, Vijayawada, who was denied admission on 23.04.2021 or 24.04.2021. When the counsel has made such categorical submission, it would be necessary for the State to look into the matter because it may not be an isolated incident of this kind. We also note the submission that because of such refusals many COVID Care Centres are not full. On the next date, the State will also apprise the Court with regard to the case of the said Nagaraju. Post this case for consideration again on 04.05.2021. ARUP KUMAR GOSWAMI, CJ C. PRAVEEN KUMAR, J Nn	

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