

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI

W.P. (PIL) No. 3498 of 2021

Court on its own motion

Versus

State of Jharkhand and Others Respondents

**CORAM: HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUJIT NARAYAN PRASAD**

For the State : Mr. Rajiv Ranjan, Advocate General
Mr. Piyush Chitresh, AC to AG

Oral Order

02/Dated : 10th September, 2021

1. Hearing of the matter has been done through video conferencing.
2. This Court has come across a very disturbing news published in the Daily Hindi Newspaper dated 09.09.2021 (Hindustan) about the death of an elephant calf, that too, within a period of 10 days second death has occurred.
3. It is further very disturbing that it has been published in the aforesaid newspaper that the death has occurred 3-4 days ago.
4. We are considering it very disturbing because under the staffing pattern in the department of Forest and Environment in the State of Jharkhand, hierarchy starts from the post of Forest Guard, Rangers and then Divisional Forest Officers and thereafter, the other higher hierarchy is there to control.
5. The duty of the Forest Guards as also the Range Officers is to guard not only the forest but also the animals for which the staffing pattern to that effect has been made but even though the elephant calf reported to have died 3-4 days ago, nobody was aware about the death which suggests about the functioning of the

employees/officers of the Forest Department within the State of Jharkhand, therefore, we have taken *suo moto* cognizance of the matter. It appears to us that the afforestation programme by large was restricted to reclaiming, conserving and developing flora, however, though the flora is required to be conserved and developed simultaneously fauna is also required to be reclaimed and preserved by taking necessary steps so that ecological balance is maintained.

6. Accordingly, the Secretary, Forest and Environment, Government of Jharkhand; Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Jharkhand; Chief, Wild Life Warden, Government of Jharkhand and Divisional Forest Officer of the concerned Division are directed to remain present through video conferencing mode in the Court proceeding on the next date of hearing.
7. Put up this matter on 16.09.2021.
8. Let a copy of this order be transmitted on e-mail address of learned Advocate General through the office of this Court.

(Dr. Ravi Ranjan, C.J.)

(Sujit Narayan Prasad, J.)