

ORDER

OD-2

WPO(P)/5/2021
IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA
CONSTITUTIONAL WRIT JURISDICTION
ORIGINAL SIDE

MANGAL SARDAR
VERSUS
THE HIGH COURT ADMINISTRATION & ORS.

BEFORE:
THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA
AND
THE HON'BLE JUSTICE RAJARSHI BHARADWAJ
DATE : 24TH DECEMBER, 2021.

[Via Video Conference]

APPEARANCE:

Mr. Srikanta Dutta, Advocate,
Ms. Rituparna Sarkar Dutta, Advocate
.....for the petitioner.

Mr. S. N. Mookherjee, AG,
Mr. A. Roy, Govt. Pleader,
Mr. T.M. Siddiqui, Advocate,
Mr. D. Ghosh, Advocate
.....for State of WB.

Mr. Siddhartha Banerjee, Advocate,
Mr. Sudipta Narayan Ghosh, Advocate
.....for High Court Administration.

The Court:- Learned counsel for the petitioner has submitted that the video conferencing facility in the district courts and the jails is necessary to avoid unnecessary expenses relating to production of under-trials as also examination of the expert witnesses. He has submitted that this facility is required even if the physical functioning of the courts has started.

Learned Advocate General has informed that so far as the central tribunals are concerned, in two central tribunals, video conferencing facilities are available. For State tribunals/forums, he has submitted that the physical appearance of the parties / advocates has started, but the need for setting up the video conferencing facility cannot be denied.

He is granted time to apprise this Court about the steps which are taken to set up video conferencing facilities in the tribunals and forums of the State.

Learned counsel for the High Court Administration is also directed to get the reports from all the district courts in respect of the existing video conference facility and the need and requirement of its further enhancement and improvement. He will place the report in tabulated form before the concerned Committee who, after examining the same, will take necessary decision to forward it with/without modifications to the State for taking steps to provide the requisite infrastructure.

List on 25th February 2022.

(PRAKASH SHRIVASTAVA, C.J.)

(RAJARSHI BHARADWAJ, J.)

akg / s.kumar