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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ W.P.(C) 3332/2020

THE POTATO & UNION MASAKHOUR MERCHANT
ASSOCIATION (REGD.) Petitioner

Through: Mr. Sumit Rana, Advocate

versus

UNION OF INDIA AND ANRRespondents

Through Mr. Jasmeet Singh, Adv.
for No.1/UOI.
Mr. Anuj Aggarwal, Adv.
for R-2/GNCTD

CORAM:

HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE HIMA KOHLI

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUBRAMONIUM PRASAD

O R D E R

% **06.06.2020**

HEARD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING.

CM Nos.11705-07/2020 (exemption)

Allowed, subject to all just exceptions.

W.P.(C) 3332/2020 & CM 11704/2020 (interim directions)

1. The present petition has been filed by the petitioner/Association as a Public Interest Litigation praying *inter alia* for issuing directions to the respondent No.1/UOI and the respondent No.2/GNCTD to jointly ensure that about 1000 labourers stranded at Azadpur Mani, Delhi, during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown period, are provided two square meals in a day, till normalcy is restored in the Mandi. Further, a prayer is made for directing the respondents to relocate the stranded workers to a Makeshift Shelter Home within or around Azadpur Mandi.

2. At the outset, on our enquiring from learned counsel for the petitioner as to why Union of India has been impleaded as respondent No.1 when the entire

relief is directed against the respondent No.2/GNCTD, he submits that he has no objection to the deletion of the respondent No.1 from the array of respondents.

3. UOI is deleted from the array of respondents and Mr. Jasmeet Singh, learned counsel for the respondent No.1/UOI is discharged from the matter.

4. Issue notice.

5. Mr. Anuj Aggarwal, learned counsel for the respondent No.2/GNCTD accepts notice and states that he has received telephonic instructions from the SDM of the area that there are 34 Relief Centres in the Model Town Sub-Division and two Hunger Relief Centres are situated within the Azadpur Mandi. He however states that he may be granted time to file an affidavit furnishing the requisite details as to the manner in which the needs of the labourers stranded at Azadpur Mandi are being met, not only in respect of shelter but also in respect of two square meals a day.

6. An affidavit shall be filed by the respondent/GNCTD with all the relevant data on or before 6th June, 2020. Rejoinder thereto, if any, may be filed within two days thereafter.

7. In the meantime, the respondent/GNCTD shall ensure that the two Hunger Relief Centres set up in Azadpur Mandi are provided enough cooked food so that the labourers stranded there can be provided packed lunch and dinner on a daily basis.

8. List on 9th June, 2020.

HIMA KOHLI, J.

SUBRAMONIUM PRASAD, J.

JUNE 06, 2020

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