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

+ **W.P.(C) 3227/2020**

MR. ANAND VAID

..... Petitioner

Through: Mr. Ankush Satija, Mr. Ankur Mahindro
and Ms. Sanjoli Mehrotra, Advocates with
petitioner-in-person.

versus

MS. PREETY VAID & ORS.

..... Respondents

Through: Mr. V. K. Bansal, Advocate.
Mr. Sanjoy Ghose, with Mr. Naman Jain,
Advocates for High Court of Delhi with
Mr. Reetesh Singh (OSD Examination)
Mr. Shaashwat Jindal and Mr. Arpit Kumar Singh
for Mr. Abhijat, Hony. Secretary, DHCBA
Mr. Anupam Shrivastava, ASC for GNCTD with
Mr. Dhairya Gupta, Advocate for respondent
Nos.4 & 5.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE HIMA KOHLI

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUBRAMONIUM PRASAD

ORDER

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02.07.2020

HEARD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING

1. On the last date of hearing, i.e., on 16.06.2020, Mr. Reetesh Singh, OSD (Examination) appearing for the Delhi High Court, had stated that there were four issues that required sanctions from the Delhi Government

urgently, being part and parcel of the project of digitisation/scanning of records and upgradation/enhancement of the existing leased lines in the District Court Complexes.

2. Taking note of the said submission and the urgency expressed, the respondent/GNCTD was directed to file an affidavit of compliance within 2 weeks, in respect of the said four issues. As for the remaining four sanctions/revalidations referred to in para 5 of the order dated 16.6.2020, the Delhi Government was directed to file another affidavit of compliance within 4 weeks.

3. Today, the matter is listed for awaiting the compliance affidavit of the Delhi Government on the pending four issues related to the project of digitisation/scanning of records and upgradation/enhancement of existing leased lines in the District Court Complexes.

4. A Status Report has been filed by the Delhi Government on 30.06.2020 wherein, it has been stated in para 3 that only the first proposal relating to grant of permission to initiate e-tender process for AMC of local area network installed in the Delhi District Courts, has been sanctioned. As for the second proposal, relating to permission for floating of e-tender for Annual Rate Contract of LAN installed at District Court Complexes, Delhi for a period of two years, though the compliance affidavit states that the said proposal was forwarded by the Minister (Law), GNCTD to the Finance Department only on 29.06.2020, Mr. Anupam Shrivastava, learned ASC appearing for the Delhi Government states that it has been conveyed to him only this morning that clearance has been given yesterday.

5. Mr. Reetesh Singh, OSD (Examination) and Mr. V. K. Bansal (DHJS), Chairperson of the Centralised Computer Committee of the District

Court jointly submit that the permission received yesterday refers to an O.M. dated 07.08.2019 issued by the Finance Department, Delhi Government which does not deal with the aspect of LAN at all. They particularly refer to para 27(b) of the said O.M. and state that the same deals with purchase of computers including laptops, printers, computer furniture, etc..

6. Mr. Shrivastava, learned ASC states that in that case, he may be permitted to obtain a clarification from the Department. The Finance Department, Delhi Government is directed to clarify its letter dated 01.07.2019 to the Delhi High Court at the earliest, *vis-a-vis* the permission sought and referred to in para 2 of the tabulated statement, forming a part of para 3 of the Status Report dated 01.07.2020, filed by the Delhi Government.

7. As regards the remaining two issues relating to revalidation of Expenditure Sanction for the procurement of Network Attached storage for the Delhi District Courts and revalidation of expenditure, sanction for procurement of 6 number of Routers through GeM portal, the Status Report records that the Minister (Law), GNCTD has forwarded the said proposals to the IT Department only on 26.09.2019.

8. We are compelled to take note of the casual approach adopted by the Delhi Government in clearing matters of such an urgency, particularly when restricted court hearings through video-conferencing are continuing due to the COVID-19 pandemic which has worsened in Delhi. The Delhi Government is directed to act with alacrity and clear the aforesaid two urgent proposals within two weeks from today. Clarification qua proposal No.2 shall also be given within a couple of days.

9. The next compliance affidavit directed to be filed by the Delhi Government in terms of the previous order, shall include the action taken to clear the aforesaid two proposals besides four other pending proposals, well before the next date of hearing.
10. List on 16th July, 2020, the date already fixed.

HIMA KOHLI, J

SUBRAMONIUM PRASAD, J

JULY 02, 2020

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