

High Court of Sikkim

Record of proceedings**WP(PIL) No.06 of 2020**

In Re : Covid 19 Management

Date : **10-05-2021**CORAM : **THE HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE MEENAKSHI MADAN RAI, JUDGE**
THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE BHASKAR RAJ PRADHAN, JUDGE

For Petitioners

Mr. Jorgay Namka, Advocate as Amicus Curiae.

For Respondents

R-1, R-2 & R-12 Ms. Sangita Pradhan, Assistant Solicitor General of India.

R-3 to R-11 Mr. Sudesh Joshi, Additional Advocate General.
Ms. Yeshi W. Rinchhen, Government Advocate.
Mr. Hissey Gyaltsen, Assistant Government Advocate.**ORDER**Rai, J.

Learned Additional Advocate General seeks accommodation for some time on grounds that Learned Advocate General is in bereavement and also in quarantine.

Considering the urgency in the matter in view of the prevailing circumstances due to the onslaught of the pandemic, discussions with regard to the immediate concerns were taken up, these included bed capacities in the STNM Hospital and across Hospitals in the Districts of the State including ICU beds. It is informed that presently ICU facilities are not available in the District Hospitals. There appears to be a dearth of ambulances for Covid duty and the number of drivers engaged for the existing ambulances. The beds identified for patients with Covid in the STNM Hospital and District Hospitals are evidently woefully low considering the number of persons who are reported to be infected by the virus on a daily basis vis-à-vis the population of the State.

Learned Amicus Curiae reports that arrangements for Grade III and Grade IV staff of the Hospitals who are also Covid warriors are deficient and requires to be addressed immediately if their well-being is to be taken into consideration and the

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health of the members of their families are also to be considered.

The situation in the Primary Health Centres and Sub-Health Centres across the State with regard to preparedness for Covid treatment were also considered and we are informed that emergency arrangements for patients with Covid are almost non-existent and no supplies of Oxygen are available at such Centres.

The testing facilities require augmentation in terms of increasing the number of Centres for testing which presently is available only in the East District that too at two Hospitals.

ICU patients are being brought to the STNM Hospital from other Districts and a lack of coordination amongst the Hospitals with regard to bed availability, admittedly led to the loss of life of a 26 year old woman who was brought in an ambulance from Singtam, but succumbed to the disease, on account of paucity of bed in the ICU and non-availability of Oxygen.

Awareness generation with regard to the vaccine registration and the protocol to be followed when patient is found to be tested Covid positive is to be taken up on a priority.

These points may be taken up for consideration by the Learned Additional Advocate General and report submitted on these counts along with other topics that arose for discussion including strengthening of frontline warriors by way of increase in numbers.

List on 15-05-2021 as found convenient by the Learned Additional Advocate General.

Judge
10-05-2021

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10-05-2021

ds/ml