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HIGH COURT OF TRIPURA
AGARTALA

WP(C)(PIL) No.09/2020

For Court on own motion	: Mr. Somik Deb, Amicus curiae.
For Respondent(s)	: Mr. S.S. Dey, Advocate General, Mr. Debalay Bhattacharjee, G.A., Ms. Ayantika Chakraborty, Advocate.

Along with

WP(C)(PIL) No.07/2021

For Petitioner(s)	: Ms. R. Guha, Advocate, Mr. D.J. Saha, Advocate, Ms. N. Sharma, Advocate.
For Respondent(s)	: Mr. S.S. Dey, Advocate General, Mr. Bidyut Majumder, Asstt. S.G., Mr. P.K. Dhar, Sr. G.A., Ms. Ayantika Chakraborty, Advocate.

WP(C)(PIL) No.08/2021

For Petitioner(s)	: Mr. P. Roy Barman, Sr. Advocate, Mr. Kawsik Nath, Advocate.
For Respondent(s)	: Mr. S.S. Dey, Advocate General, Mr. Debalay Bhattacharjee, G.A., Ms. Ayantika Chakraborty, Advocate.

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. AKIL KURESHI
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S. TALAPATRA

Order

04/06/2021
(Akil Kureshi, C.J.)

Pursuant to our last order dated 31-05-2021 the State administration has filed additional affidavit dated 03.06.2021. Having

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perused the said affidavit and having heard learned advocates for the parties, following issues need to be highlighted:

(i) We notice that the Government has accepted our suggestion of publishing vaccination bulletin on daily basis. These details which would now be in public domain and easily accessible to the members of the public would certainly give idea of the precise position of the vaccination progress to the members of the public;

(ii) From the data provided in the vaccination bulletins learned advocates for the petitioners and in particular learned amicus curiae Mr. Somik Deb pointed out that:

(a) There is a severe shortage of vaccines for the persons in the age group of 18 to 44 years;

(b) So far, as a result of such shortage, very few persons in this age group have been vaccinated; and

(c) Bulk of such vaccines in this age group has been received by the residents of West Tripura District. It is pointed out that out of a total of 58,125 first vaccines administered in this age group as on 03.06.2021, 57,804 vaccines have been administered in West Tripura District. The data also shows that in several districts very few vaccines have been given to persons in this age group and in some districts no one in this age group has received vaccines so far.

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This disproportionate distribution of vaccines in the age group where there is a severe shortage, needs to be addressed by the State administration. *Prima facie*, such disparity could be on account of severe shortage of doses as compared to the persons eligible to receive and are willing to receive the vaccine and the requirement of online registration. We request the State administration to address this issue and to ensure that the vaccine doses whenever available for such age group are not monopolized by any region or class of citizens and that there is a more equitable distribution of such vaccines.

(iii) The affidavit states that in the Covid wards one relative per patient is allowed to enter the ward for the requirements of the patient at the discretion of the doctors.

Even if this is the policy of the Government, such a relative after coming out of the Covid ward is a potential carrier of the virus. We expect that the administration would take all necessary precautions while allowing any relative of the patient to enter the Covid ward.

List the petitions on **25.06.2021**.

(S. TALAPATRA), J

(AKIL KURESHI), CJ

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