



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPIL No. 99 of 2025

In The Matter of Suo Moto Public Intrest Litigation, Regarding News Item Namely Asanvedansheel Prashashan Purani Lift Band, Nayi Granite Ke Intejar Me Shuru Nahi Composite Building Ki Lift 6 Mahine Se Kharab, Divyang Mushkil Se Chadh Rahe Seedhiyan... Kya System Baishakhi Par Hai Published In Daily Newspaper Dainik Bhaskar, Bilaspur Bhaskar Dated 8th November, 2025

... Petitioner

versus

- 1** - The State of Chhattisgarh Through Chief Secretary, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nawa Raipur, Chhattisgarh
- 2** - The Secretary Public Works Department, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh
- 3** - The Secretary Social Welfare, Nishaktjan, Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur, Chhattisgarh
- 4** - The Collector Bilaspur, District Bilaspur Chhattisgarh
- 5** - Chief Engineer Public Works Department, Bilaspur, District Bilaspur Chhattisgarh

... Respondents

(Cause-title taken from Case Information System)

Order Sheet

10.11.2025	This is an office reference. Mr. Prafull N. Bharat, learned Advocate General, assisted by Mr. Yashwant Singh Thakur, learned Additional Advocate General appearing for the State/respondents, is present. A news item with the heading “कंपोजिट बिल्डिंग की लिफ्ट 6 महीने से खराब, दिव्यांग मुश्किल से चढ़ रहे सीढ़ियां... क्या सिस्टम बैसाखी पर है?” and the sub heading “असंवेदनशील प्रशासन पुरानी लिफ्ट बंद, नई ग्रेनाइट के इंतजार में शुरू नहीं” has been published in the “Bilaspur Bhaskar” edition of the “Dainik Bhaskar” newspaper dated 08.11.2025. The said news report goes to show a deeply concerning state of affairs prevailing in the new composite Government building, which houses the offices of 22 different Government departments. According to the said news report, the elevator/lift installed in the building has been out of

order for the past six months. A new elevator/lift is also under construction, but despite the lapse of considerable time, it has not been made functional, reportedly due to delays in installation work such as granite fitting. Consequently, the entire building, which is three storeys high and contains 72 stairs in total, remains without any operational lift facility.

The report highlights that approximately 250 Government officials and employees work in this composite building, and an equal number of citizens visit these Government departments daily for their essential work. Nearly 500 people commute in and out of the building every day, yet the absence of a functional lift has caused widespread inconvenience and hardship.

A particularly distressing aspect revealed in the news item is that four disabled employees are posted in this building, namely Santoshi Dhruv, Labour Inspector; Deepak Tiwari of the Planning and Statistics Department; and K.S. Paikra and S. Yadav of the Town

and Country Planning Department. With the elevator/lift not functioning, these disabled employees are compelled to climb the stairs daily. The report describes in detail the ordeal of Labour Inspector Santoshi Dhruv, who, using crutches, climbs 24 steps to reach the first floor, placing one foot at a time and relying on the railing and crutches for support. This routine, repeated every day, visibly demonstrates the severe physical strain faced by disabled personnel.

The news report also points out that Government rules mandate the presence of functional lifts, ramps, and wheelchair facilities in all public buildings for the convenience of disabled persons. Further, in case of failure of such facilities, temporary arrangements must be provided on the ground floor. However, the situation in the composite building shows complete disregard for these directives, as no ground floor arrangements have been made despite the long duration of lift failure.

In addition to the lack of accessibility, the report notes that basic amenities such as drinking water are

also unavailable on any floor of the building. Employees reportedly pool funds to purchase water bottles from the market, as the building, constructed in 2013 at a cost of approximately Rs. 8 crore, does not have a drinking water facility. Employees from various Government departments have written to the Collector requesting that the lift be repaired and the new lift made operational at the earliest.

Lastly, the news report mentions that instructions have been issued to the Public Works Department (PWD) to expedite and complete the lift installation work as soon as possible. However, the prolonged non functioning of the existing lift and the delay in completion of the new lift have raised questions about administrative sensitivity and efficiency, as reflected in the tone of the news article.

Mr. Bharat, learned Advocate General, submits that in view of the serious issues highlighted in the aforesaid news report regarding the prolonged non functioning of the lifts in the composite Government

building, he requires some time to seek detailed instructions from the concerned authorities. He states that the matter involves accessibility challenges faced by disabled Government employees, pregnant staff members, and the general public, as well as allegations relating to the lack of basic facilities such as drinking water within the building.

Having regard to the gravity of the situation disclosed in the newspaper article dated 08.11.2025, and considering the submission made by the learned Advocate General, time as prayed for is granted to enable him to obtain proper instructions and place the factual position on record.

Considering the fact that the issues of grave public importance highlighted in the aforesaid news report, this Court deems it appropriate to call for the personal response of the authority concerned. Accordingly, the Secretary, Public Works Department, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, Nava Raipur shall file his personal affidavit clearly indicating the present

status of the repair of the existing lift, the reasons for the prolonged delay in making the new lift operational, the timeline within which both lifts shall be made functional, and the steps proposed to ensure accessibility and availability of basic amenities within the composite Government building. The affidavit shall be filed before the next date of hearing.

List the matter on **13.11.2025**.

Sd/-
(Bibhu Datta Guru)
Judge

Sd/-
(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice

Anu