



HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR

WPIL No. 54 of 2024

IN THE MATTER OF SUO MOTO PUBLIC INTREST LITIGATION
versus THE STATE OF CHHATTISGARH

Order Sheet

13/08/2025	This is an office reference. Heard Mr.Yashwant Singh Thakur, learned Additional Advocate General appearing for the respondent-State, Mr.Anuroop Panda, learned counsel appearing for respondents No.8 & 18, Ms.Preeti Yadav, learned counsel appearing for respondents No.14, 16, 17, 19 & 22, Mr.A.S.Kachhwaha, learned counsel appearing for respondent No.15 and Dr.Sudeep Agrawal, learned counsel appearing for respondent No.23.

Though this PIL was fixed for 10th September, 2025 as was ordered by this Court on 22.07.2025, but considering the news item, which has been reported today in Bilaspur Bhaskar i.e., हाई कोर्ट में बताया – 5 सिटी बसें चल रही, छठवीं जल्द शुरू करेंगे...20 दिन में ही ये भी बंद हो गई regarding that after the High Court's strictness, the city bus service which was closed for years though was started again, but it was stopped within a few days, the present matter is preponed and the Registry is directed by Hon'ble the Chief Justice to list the matter today itself for passing necessary orders in this regard. The Registry has, thus, listed the matter today in the supplementary cause list.

On the last date of hearing i.e. on 22.07.2025, Mr. S. Prakash, Secretary /Transport Commissioner, Department of Transport, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur has filed his personal affidavit before this Court on 20th July, 2025 stating that out of 6 city buses 5 buses started running and 1 bus would be made operation soon. But, looking to the aforesaid news

	published today, it transpires that the situation is such that for last 4 days, city buses are not running on any route of the city and the reason for this is said to be the breakdown of the buses. This is the situation when 20 days ago on 22nd July, the Transport Secretary had given an affidavit in the High Court saying that insurance, fitness and tax of 6 out of 9 city buses have been deposited and 5 buses are currently running on the roads and one more will start soon. City buses have been operating for last ten years within a radius of 30 km. from the city and buses were being run somehow on Takhatpur, Kota, Khuntaghat, Bilha route despite being old. During the Corona period, many trains do not have stoppages at Bilha, Kota and other small stations. In view of this, the city bus is very important for urban people as well as the areas of the region. A large number of people are getting upset due to the city bus not being operated for last 4 days. Corporation officials say that the buses have deteriorated due to being old and now they are not
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even worth repairing. It cannot be said that for how many more days people will not be able to get this facility. It is being said in the said news item that new e-buses will start after Diwali.

Considering the aforesaid facts, Mr. S. Prakash, Secretary-cum-Transport Commissioner, Department of Transport, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur is directed to remain present before this Court tomorrow to explain why he has filed a misleading affidavit before this Court on 20th July, 2025, wherein it was stated that out of six city buses, five had commenced operation and the remaining one would be made operational shortly though the same were not fit for use and became non-operational within 20 days and it is causing great hardship to the public at large; and further, to show cause as to why contempt proceedings should not be initiated against him for the same.

List this matter tomorrow i.e. on **14th August, 2025**, on which date, he shall appear in person.

Learned Additional Advocate General is directed

to communicate this order to Mr. S. Prakash, Secretary-cum-Transport Commissioner, Department of Transport, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur today itself for necessary information and compliance.

Sd/-

(Ravindra Kumar Agrawal)
Judge

Sd/-

(Ramesh Sinha)
Chief Justice

Bablu