



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR
AT IMPHAL**

PIL No.11 of 2026.

Shri. Ayekpam Keshorjit Singh aged about 48 years S/o Late
A. Kunjo Singh, Resident of Haobam Marak Irom Leikai, P.O.
Imphal & PS Singjamei, Imphal West District, Manipur-795001.

.....Petitioner

-Versus-

1. The Union of India through the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India and its Office address at Krishi Bhawan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi-110001.
2. The State of Manipur through the Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur and its Office at New Secretariat Building, Mantripukhri, Imphal West, Manipur-795001.
3. The Commissioner/Secretary(Agriculture), Government of Manipur and its Office at New Secretariat Building, Mantripukhri, B.P.O.-High Court of Manipur & PS-Heingang, District-Imphal East, Manipur.
4. The Director General of Police, Manipur and its Office at New Police Head Quarter, Mantripukhri, Imphal East, Manipur-795002
5. The Director, Directorate of Agriculture, Government of Manipur and its Office address at Sanjenthong, Imphal, Manipur-795001.

....Respondents

6. Shri. Ningthoujam Gojendro, the then Director, Directorate of Agriculture, Government of Manipur, aged about 51 years S/o Late Ningthoujam Gambhir Singh, a resident of



Sapam Leirak Nongmaithem Mamang Leikai, PO-Imphal, PS- Lamphel, District-Imphal West, Manipur.

7. Shri Akoijam Bowjit, the then Nodal Officer PMKSY, Directorate of Agriculture, Government of Manipur, aged about 64 years, S/o Late Akoijam Mangi, a resident of Mahabali Mamang Meitei Leikai, PO-Imphal, PS-Porompat, District-Imphal East, Manipur.
8. Shri Chingakham Maniratan Singh, aged about 58 years, S/o Chingakham Paka Singh, a resident of Kwakeithel Nganapi Thong Mapal, PO & PS- Imphal, District-Imphal West, Manipur and now serving as S.O.(In-Charge), Directorate of Agriculture, Government of Manipur and
9. Smt. Rajkumari Gitarani Devi, aged about 41 years W/O Khangembam Playtoni Meetei. A resident of Khurai Soibam Leikai, Near Citizen Club, PO & PS-Porompat District-Imphal East, Manipur and now serving as Computer Operator, PMKSY, Directorate of Agriculture, Government of Manipur.

....Private Respondents

BEFORE

**HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. M. SUNDAR
HON'BLE MR JUSTICE A. GUNESHWAR SHARMA**

JUDGEMENT & ORDER
(Oral)

28.07.2026

[1] The following abbreviations/short forms have been used in this order (for the sake of brevity, convenience and clarity):

Sl. No.	Abbreviation/Short Form/other short references	Full Form/Expansion
1.	PiL	Public Interest Litigation
2	RTI	Right to Information



3.	RTI Act	The Right to Information Act, 2005 (22 of 2005)
4.	PMKSY	Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana
5.	R1, R2,R3, etc.	It denotes respondent No.1, respondent No.2, respondent No.3 and similar abbreviations have been used for other respondents also.
6.	said representation	Representation dated 29.12.2025 sent by PiL petitioner to R4 and received by the office of R4 on 30.12.2025.

[2] Captioned matter is listed under the cause list caption 'MOTION PIL'.

[3] Mr. Ajoy Pebam, learned counsel on record for PiL petitioner is before this Court (physical Court).

[4] In the hearing today, it comes to light from the case file and submissions of the learned counsel that the PiL petitioner describes himself as a social activist and he has filed captioned PiL in this Court on 23.07.2026 with a prayer for direction to State to constitute/appoint an competent agency to conduct investigation into allegations of misuse of funds to the tune of 180.27 crores *qua* PMKSY.

[5] At the outset, learned counsel for PiL petitioner submits that there is no reply to said representation. To be noted, a scanned reproduction of said representation dated 29.12.2025 as placed before this Court (P/5 of the paper book) is as follows:



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ANNEXURE P/5 (colly)

To,

The Director General of Police,
Government of Manipur, Imphal, Manipur

P/C
Hassan
30/12/25
OFFICE OF THE DGP
P.H.Q. Manipur, Imphal.
Receipt No. 2694-8
Date 30/12/25

Subject: A complaint for taking appropriate action against the then Director, Agriculture Department, the then Scheme-in-Charge/Nodal Officer (PMKSY) namely Akoijam Bowjit Singh, Asst. Agri. Engg., Agricultural Department and other Employees of Agriculture Department, Government of Manipur for committing irregularities, misused of funds, manipulation, corruption and fraudulent in the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in Manipur in collusion with other fake farmers/influential persons which is leading to multi-crore scam of public money in the name of innocent farmers.

Sir,

I have the honour to state that the following few lines are laying before you for your kind perusal and prompt action.

2. That I am a resident of Haobam Marak Irom Leikai, Imphal West working as human rights defender by using the Right to Information Act, 2005 for maintaining transparency and accountability in the functioning of public authorities so as to contend corruption in the country.

3. That on 1st March 2021 and 19th March 2025, I submitted two (2) applications to the State Public Information Officer (SPIO)/Directorate of Agriculture Department, Government of Manipur to access certain information regarding the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in Manipur for the years 2018-19 to 2021-22 under the Right to Information Act, 2005. In response to my applications, the SPIO/Agriculture Department, Government of Manipur had furnished some information in piecemeal basis.

Photocopy of the Applications are annexed hereto and marked as **Annexure-I** and **II** respectively

4. That in response to my application dated 19/03/2025 under the RTI Act, the SPIO/Directorate of Agriculture Department, Government of Manipur has furnished some information in piecemeal basis i.e. on (a) 25/08/2025 vide letter No AGM-1/625/PMKSY/RTI/2028 dated 14/08/2025, (b) 25/09/2025 (in the form of affidavit) and (c) 19/12/2025 (in the form of affidavit). However, the requested information of application dated 01/03/2021 was ruined. Thus regarding query No 1 of my application dated 19/03/2025, the SPIO/Agriculture Department has furnished the public notification for selection of beneficiaries for the year 2025 on and as such, no public notices were issued for other previous years.

30.7.26
Smt. M. Nubdy Devi
Oath Commissioner (Judicial)
Imphal West District & High Court
Regd. No. 809/2026

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J. Rajesh
Advocate



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5. That regarding query No.2 of the application dated 19/03/2025, the SPIO/Agriculture has refused to provide the sanction orders made for construction of check dam/line channel, farm ponds, renovation of existing water bodies and supply of sprinkler set and as such, it is clearly revealed that the officials have concealed the actual amounts mean for farmers and as such, misused of funds incurred for the said works.

6. That regarding query No.3 of the application dated 29/03/2025, the SPIO has provided some sanction orders issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India for about Rs.12,949 lakhs i.e. **Rs.129.49 crores** (Rupees one twenty-nine crore and forty nine lakhs) without state share of 10% to implement the PMKSY in Manipur as shown in the following table No.(i). But the said public Authority has refused to furnish the other remaining sanction orders including the state share.

Photocopy of the Information dated 14/08/2025, 25.09/2025 and 19/12/2025 furnished by the Agriculture Department are enclosed and marked as **Annexure-III, IV & V** respectively

Table No.(i) Sanction orders issued by Central Government for PMKSY-2018-19 to 2021-22

Sl.N o.	Particulars	Year	File. No.	Date	Amount in Lakh
1	1 st Inst.(Gen Category)	2018-19	F.No.18-1/2018-RFS-III	3 rd Dec. 2018	1,222
2.	1 st Inst. (SCSP Category)	2018-19	F.No.18-1/2018-RFS-III	3 rd Dec. 2018	76
3.	1 st Inst. (TSP Category)	2018-19	F.No.18-1/2018-RFS-III	3 rd Dec. 2018	702
4.	2 nd Inst. (Gen Category)	2018-19	F.No.18-1/2018-RFS-III	25 March 2019	2000
5.	1 st Inst. (Gen Category)	2019-20	F.No.18-1/2018-RFS-III	26 th Sept 2019	915
6.	1 st Inst. (SCSP category)	2019-20	F.No.18-1/2018-RFS-III	26 th Sept 2019	60
7.	1 st Inst. (TSP Category)	2019-20	F.No.18-1/2018-RFS-III	26 th Sept 2019	525
8.	2 nd Inst. (Gen Category)	2019-20	F.No.18-1/2018-RFS-III	6 th March 2020	1155.17
9.	2 nd Inst. (SCSP category)	2019-20	F.No.18-1/2018-RFS-III	6 th March 2020	94.83
10.	2 nd Inst. (TSP Category)	2019-20	F.No.18-1/2018-RFS-III	6 th March 2020	1250
11.	1 st Inst. (Gen Category)	2020-21	F.No.18-17/2020-RFS-III	25 th Aug 2020	1681
12.	1 st Inst. (SCSP)	2020-21	F.No.18-17/2020-RFS-III	25 th Aug 2020	104
13.	1 st Inst. (TSP)	2020-21	F.No.18-17/2020-RFS-III	25 th Aug 2020	965
14.	1 st Inst. (Gen Category)	2020-21	F.No.18-17/2020-RFS-III	2 nd Sept 2021	2199
				Total amount	12,949

[Signature]
Smt. M. Bibi Devi
Joint Commissioner (Judicial)
Imphal West District & High Court
Regd. No. 608/2026

[Signature]
J. Rajesh
Advocate

That regarding query No.4 of my application dated 29/03/2025, the SPIO/Directorate of Agriculture Department, Government of Manipur has provided some utilisation certificates (U.C.) submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and



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Farmers Welfare, Government of India for implementing the PMKSY in Manipur for the years 2018-19 to 2021-22 for about Rs. 18,027.23 lakh i.e. **Rs.180.2723/-crore** (Rupees one eighty crore twenty seven lakh and twenty three thousand) as shown in the following table No.(ii). However, the said authority has denied furnishing the remaining U.C.s along with the details of separate component-wise sanction orders by stating having no such separate orders.

Table No.(ii) Utilisation certificates submitted by Government of Manipur

Sl.N o.	Particulars	Year	Letter No.	Date	Amount in lakh
1.	2 nd Inst. (MI &OI)	2018-19	1-Agri (SNC/PMKSY)/UC/2019	28 th Feb 2019	611
2.	1 st Inst. (TSP)	2018-19	-do-	-do-	351
3.	1 st Inst. (SCSP)	-do-	-do-	-do-	38
4.	1 st Inst. (Gen. Category)	-do-	-do-	-do-	611
5.	2 nd Inst. (MI & OI)	2019-20	1-Agri (SNC/PMKSY)/UC/2018	11 th Dec 2019	2150 (including Rs.150 Lakh state Share)
6.	(MI & OI)	2019-20	1-Agri (SNC/PMKSY)/UC/2018	8 th May 2020	2044
7.	Gen.,SCSP, TSP, MI &OI		1-Agri (SNC/PMKSY)/UC/2018	2 nd June 2021	750
8.	MI & OI	2019-20	1-Agri (SNC/PMKSY)/UC/2018	31 st July 2020	1750
9.	MI & OI	2020-21	1-Agri (SNC/PMKSY)/UC/2018	2 nd June 2021	2159.21
10.	1 st Inst. MI & OI	2020-21	1-Agri (SNC/PMKSY)/UC/2018	5 th July 2021	896.35 (including 305.56 Lakhs State Share)
11.	2 nd Inst. MI & OI	2021-22	1-Agri (SNC/PMKSY)/UC/2018	1 st Sept. 2022	4000 (including 400 Lakhs state share)
12.	2 nd Inst. MI & OI	2021-22	1-Agri (SNC/PMKSY)/UC/2018	28 th March 2023	2666.67 (including 266.67 Lakhs state share)
				Total Amount	18,027.23

Shri. M. Baby Devi
Oath Commissioner (Judicial)
Imphal West District & High Court
Regd. No. 609/2026

8. That regarding query No.6 of my application dated 29/03/2025, the SPIO has stated that the list of beneficiaries are uploaded at the website www.agrimanipur.mn.gov.in and thereafter, I have down loaded the same which are available as the list of the beneficiaries for different components of PMKSY i.e. (i) Micro irrigation (sprinkler with pump set) and (ii) other intervention (micro storage structure & farm pond). When I have conducted a fact finding by random verification, field visits and cross check with electoral rolls of the beneficiaries and thereafter it is found that (i) the then Director, Agriculture Department and Scheme-in-Charge/Nodal

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J. Rajesh
Advocate



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officer (PMKSY) along with their staff have committed various irregularities, misused of funds, manipulation, corruption and fraudulent to implement of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in Manipur in collusion with other fake farmers/influential persons by violating the Guidelines of the Scheme and Civil Service Conduct Rules which is amounted to multi-crore scam and as such, the rights and entitles of innocent farmers have been deprived. The alleged findings are submitted below:

Photocopy of the fact finding report, beneficiary list along with relevant voter list are enclosed as Table No.(iii) and marked as **Annexure-VI (a), (b) and (c)** respectively

A. FINDINGS OF FACT FINDING/VERIFICATION:

- (i) There was no open public notice inviting from the eligible farmers for selection of the beneficiaries for providing the benefits for the years from 2018 to 2021 and hence, pick and choose selection of beneficiaries by depriving the rights and entitlements of the real innocent farmers.
- (ii) There is no fare and transparency in selection of beneficiaries which is amounted to violation of Guideline and Rules and hence corruption and nepotism,
- (iii) There are many beneficiaries who did not apply for the scheme but selected them by the officials without his/her consent.
- (iv) There are some beneficiaries who are the relatives and family members of the then Minister concerned, Nodal Officer and other staff/officials of Agriculture Department even the staff himself/herself got the benefits being as beneficiary.
- (v) There are many beneficiaries who are from the same household/family i.e. husband, wife, son/daughter, brother and sisters, sister-in-law and brother-in-law etc. when the electoral rolls of the beneficiaries are checked up with the latest Electoral Rolls of 2025.
- (vi) There are some Ghost beneficiaries who are not actually found in the given address and respective electoral rolls and as such, one Village Authority i.e. the Uyumpik Development Committee (UDC), Imphal East has issued one declaration/certificate that the said beneficiary is not resident of the said village mentioned in the beneficiary list.
- (vii) There are some beneficiaries who are enjoying the double/triple benefits in the same year, of different component/benefits and different year and hence manipulation of required documents and beneficiaries.
- (viii) There are some beneficiaries who are not actually farmer i.e. fake farmers and also beneficiaries who have owned paddy land/farm but he/she is not really working as farmer.

Smt. M. B. D. D. D.
Oath Commissioner (Judicial)
Imphal West District & High Court
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J. Rajesh
Advocate



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(ix) There are many beneficiaries who have not got the actual amounts/benefits which were taken back by the officials after transferring the said amount to their respective bank accounts through DBT.

(x) There are some beneficiaries who are not aware of the selection as well as scheme/benefits and in this connection two (2) beneficiaries of Imphal West have given their affidavits.

(xi) The documents particularly the required Jamabandis/Pattas submitted by the respective farmers/beneficiaries have been provided after erased/tainted the detail records and hence there may be fake patta/jamabandi.

Photocopy of Declaration issued by UDC, Uyumpok and two (2) affidavits are enclosed and marked as **Annexure-VII, VIII & IX** respectively

B. RECOMMENDATION:-

It is urged and recommended that the Authority concerned is requested:-

- (a) To investigate this scam accordingly;
- (b) To take appropriate legal action against the ghost/fake farmers;
- (c) To punish the errant officials, fake/ghost farmers and the influential persons who are involved in this multi-crore scam as per law;

9. That regarding query No.7 of the application dated 29/03/2025, the SPIO/Agriculture has stated the selection of beneficiaries are done by the District Level Officers in accordance with the programmes implementation guidelines but they have violated the said guidelines by committing various irregularities, misused of funds, manipulation, corruption and fraudulent to implement of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in Manipur in collusion with other fake farmers/influential persons.

10. That in respect of query No.8 of the application dated 29/03/2025, the SPIO/Agriculture has stated that there is no required for preparation of estimate and drawings and hence no such document are available. However, it is submitted that normally in any construction of any structure requires a drawing and estimate as per engineering mandate/principle and hence, a civil engineer has been appointed for implementation of PMKSY in the Directorate of Agriculture, Government of Manipur. Thus it is an irregularity/manipulation of construction by giving Rs.5,00,000/- for construction of micro storage structure (check dam/line channel) or Rs.90,000/- or Rs.75,000/- for construction of farm pond without proper estimate and drawing and as such, it may be concluded that

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S. Rajesh
Advocate

2025-7-28
Smt. M. Buby Devi

Jath Commissioner (Judicial)
Imphal West District & High Court
Regd. No. 609/2025

and the above mentioned officials have been committing the aforesaid offences.

11. That regarding query No (9) of my application, the SPIO/Agriculture has furnished many Jamabandis/Pattas of the respective beneficiaries/farmers are erased/tainted which means that there are many fake farmers and ghost



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beneficiaries particularly among the beneficiaries of micro storage structure/Check-dam/line canals and farm pond incurring Rs.5,00,000/- (Rupees five lakh), Rs.90,000/ or Rs.75,000/- in which a huge amount of public money have been reportedly looted by the officials in collusion with other fake farmers and influential persons.

Photocopy of three Jamabandi/Patta provided by the Agriculture Department are enclosed and marked as Annexure-X, XI & XII respectively

12. That the very acts of the Agriculture Department, Government of Manipur is allegedly full of irregularities, misused of funds, manipulation, corruption and fraudulent to implement of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in Manipur which is amounted to deprivation of rights and entitlements of real innocent farmers and as such, the agricultural sector of Manipur will not be developed and sustain in future if such wrongs are not corrected.

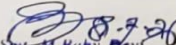
In view of the above facts and circumstances, I would like to draw your kind attention to look into the matter and direct the concern authority to investigate the matter for punishing the errant officials and persons who were involved in such fraudulent act and multi-crore scam so as to enable the real innocent farmers to get their rights and entitlements at the earliest for the end of justice.

Yours sincerely,

A. Keshorjit Singh

(Ayekpam Keshorjit Singh)
S/o Late A. Kunjo Singh,
Haobam Marak Irom Leikai,
P.O. Imphal & P.S. Singjamei.
Imphal West District, Manipur

Dated/Imphal
29th December 2025


Shri. M. Babu Devi
Oath Commissioner (Judicial)
Imphal West District & High Court
Regd. No. 609/2026

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J. Rajesh
Advocate

[6] Issue notice to official respondents.

[7] Mr. Boboy Potsangbam, learned CGSC (Central Government Standing Counsel) accepts notice for R1. Ms. Jyotsana Devi, learned State counsel accepts notice for R2 to R5 and Mr. M. Devananda, learned senior advocate and learned Additional Advocate General (.Addl.AG) for State of Manipur appears on her behalf.



[8] Learned State counsel for R1 submits that as regards captioned PiL, R1 is more in the nature of formal party as R1 is concerned with putting in place PMKSY and implementation is in the domain of State Government.

[9] As regards R2 to R5, learned Addl. AG on instructions, adverting to the paper book of the PiL petitioner, submits that the PiL petitioner has taken the RTI route by making a RTI application dated 27.10.2025 under RTI Act and obtained replies to 3(three) queries *vide* reply dated 02.04.2026. To be noted, scanned reproduction of RTI reply as placed before this Court by PiL petitioner is as follows:

- G3A - ANNEXURE - P/1(A)

**GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE: MANIPUR**

No.AGM-I/625/PMKSY/RTI/2028 Imphal, the 2nd April, 2026

To, ✓
Shri Ayekpam Keshorjit Singh,
S/o A. Kunjo Singh,
Haobam Marak Irom Leikai,
Imphal West, Manipur

Subject: Furnishing reply to your RTI Application dated 27.10.2025.

Sir,
In inviting to your RTI Application dated 27.10.2025 and decision dated 23.03.2026 by Manipur Information Commission, I am to submit the required information as stated hereunder:

Sl. No	Query/ Decisions by Manipur Information Commission dated 23.03.2026	Answer
1	Please give a copy of decision/ approval order SLSC fixed amount of 5 lakhs for construction of Micro Storage structure under PMKSY	Copy of the decision/approval order of the State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC). No separate SLSC approval order fixing 5 lakhs for construction of Micro Storage Structures. A certified copy of the relevant SLSC proceedings is enclosed as annexure-I
2	Give detail specification/ drawing, detail abstract cost of Construction of Micro storage structure under PMKSY	1. The activities undertaken for the construction of Micro Storage Structures do not mandate the preparation or maintenance of estimates or technical drawings. Hence, no such documents are available on record. 2. No separate estimates or drawings have been prepared or maintained for Micro Storage Structures under the said scheme, as the same is not required as per the applicable guidelines.

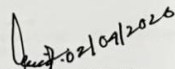
Smt. M. Baby Devi
Jath Commissioner (Judicial)
Imphal West District & High Court
Recd No. 549/2026
2/4/2026

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J. Rajesh
Advocate



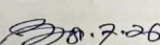
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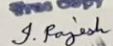
		3. The Micro Storage Structure is constructed based on the topographic and site-specific conditions of the concerned location. No standard estimates or drawings are prepared, as the design varies depending on local requirements and applicable scheme guidelines. Hence, no such documents are available.
3	Give a copy of public notice, Press Clipping made for starting the implementation of PMKSY by the concerned officer of Agriculture Dept. Govt. of Manipur for the year from 2017 to 2024	For the year 2019, 2022, and 2025 are available on record and are enclosed as Annexure-II. For the remaining years, the records are not available on record in this office.


(N. Munindro Singh)
Nodal Officer, PMKSY-PDMC /ASPIO
Deptt. of Agriculture, Manipur.

Copy to,

1. The P.S. Manipur Information Commission, Manipur
2. The Director, Deptt. of Agriculture, Manipur.
3. Guard file


Smt. Aruby Devi
Oath Commissioner (Judicial)
Imphal West District & High Court
Regd. No. 609/2026


J. Rajesh
Advocate

[10] Learned Addl. AG, adverting to afore-referred RTI reply submits that the RTI reply has been obtained by PiL petitioner post said representation. To be noted, as already alluded to supra, said representation dated 29.12.2025 addressed to R4 and has been received by the office of R4 on 30.12.2025 but the RTI reply is dated 02.04.2026 (though PiL petitioner is RTI querist and the RTI application is dated 27.10.2025). Learned Addl. AG submitted, on instructions, that if the PiL petitioner makes a further representation *qua* said representation, the further representation which will be predicated on the RTI reply will be treated as 'addenda' to said representation, the same (said presentation and further representation) will be



considered on its own merits in accordance with law and dispose of said representation, necessary legal action (if deemed necessary by R4) permissible in law will be initiated.

[11] In aforesaid scenario, learned counsel for PiL petitioner de-scoped the prayer in captioned PiL, limited it and submitted that it will suffice if said representation/further representation are disposed of on its own merits in accordance with law.

[12] Both sides agreed to the aforesaid course and agreed to have a consent order in this regard subject only to a time frame/cap for R4 to dispose of said representation. Therefore, captioned PIL (main matter) was taken up in the admission Board itself with the consent of learned counsel on record for PiL petitioner and learned State counsel. In this regard, this Court is acutely conscious that R6 to R9 are private respondents and captioned PiL is being disposed of in the admission Board itself, which means R6 to R9 are not put on notice. Therefore, it is made clear that all the rights and contentions of R6 to R9 stand preserved. This order will not impact the rights and contentions of R6 to R9 in any manner. Likewise, it is made clear that while said representation and further representation are taken up by R4, adequate and ample opportunity shall be given to private respondents (R6 to R9) and the stand point of R6 to R9 (their response to said representation and further representation) shall be duly considered on its own merits and in accordance with law untrammelled by instant order. It is in this context that this Court deems it appropriate to write that this order does not express any view or opinion on the merits of the matter much less on the allegations *qua*



illegalities/irregularities in PMKSY. As all the rights and contentions of R6 to R9 remain protected/preserved and also untrammelled by instant order and as private respondents R6 to R9 will get an opportunity to respond to said representation and further representation when R4 examines the said representation and further representation, there is no impediment in disposing of the captioned PIL by dispensing with notice to private respondents and making instant innocuous consent order. As regards opportunity to private respondents (R6 to R9), we make it clear that it need not necessarily be a personal hearing *qua* R4, we deem it appropriate to write that R4 shall requisition comments/response of R6 to R9 *qua* said representation as well as further representation, take into account the response of R6 to R9 and then make any orders, obviously on the merits of the said representation/further representation and response of R6 to R9 and in accordance with law.

[13] In the light of the discussions thus far, the following order is made;

(a) PiL petitioner shall now send a further representation to R4 *inter-alia* capturing essentials of afore-referred RTI reply dated 02.04.2026 and this shall be done by PiL petitioner within a fortnight from today i.e., on or before 11.08.2026;

(b) after receipt of further representation, adverted to supra, R4 shall take up said representation and further representation together, requisition comments/views/viewpoints/response of R6 to R9, consider said representation/further representation as well as the response/views of R6 to R9 and make an order on its own



merits and in accordance with law as expeditiously as the official business of R4 would permit but in any event within 8(eight) weeks from 11.08.2026 i.e., on or before 06.10.2026;

(c) the disposal of said representation/further representation by R4 in the aforesaid manner shall be communicated to PiL petitioner as well as each of the private respondents (R6 to R9) under due acknowledgement within 7(seven) working days from the date of disposal;

(d) if PiL petitioner or private respondents R6 to R9 and/or any other individual concerned with the matter is not satisfied or aggrieved by the disposal of said representation/further representation by R4, it is open to such person to either come to this Court or approach any other appropriate legal fora as permissible in law. If such scenario unfurls, this Court and/or any other legal fora shall consider the matter on its own merits and in accordance with law untrammelled by instant order.

[14] Captioned PiL is disposed of as closed in the aforesaid manner albeit with afore-referred directions/observations and preservation of rights and contentions. There shall be no order as to costs.

JUDGE

CHIEF JUSTICE

John Kom

P.S. I : Upload forthwith.

P.S. II : All concerned will stand bound by web copy uploaded in High Court website inter-alia as the same is QR coded.