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***IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

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W.P.(C) 1756/2018

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Date of decision : 18th April, 2018

SHAIENDRA BHATNAGAR

..... Petitioner

Through : Petitioner in person.

versus

THE REGISTRAR GENERAL,

HIGH COURT OF DELHI & ANR

... Respondents

Through : Mr. Viraj R. Datar, Adv. for R-1.

Mr. Satyakam, ASC, GNCTD for R-2 with Mr. Abhilash Malhotra, M.M. (CD), Nodal Officer, Computer Website Committee.

Ms. Maninder Acharya, ASG with Mr. Jasmeet Singh, CGSC for NIC along with Mr. R.K. Kaul, Scientist 'F', NIC.

CORAM:

HON'BLE THE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE C.HARI SHANKAR

JUDGMENT (ORAL)

GITA MITTAL, ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE

1. This writ petitioner submits that he has made applications to the authorities highlighting various issues such as the official website of Delhi District Courts having a major issue of not uploading the

necessary ongoing court information i.e. cause list; daily orders; case status, judgments, and information about judges being on leave/training etc.

2. The writ petitioner submits that this information has to be gathered from lawyers, litigants and colleagues of various courts.

3. It is further complained that information regarding various courts orders, forms and amendments etc. also are not frequently uploaded in the authorized website of Delhi District Courts, which creates a major problem for the day to day working of advocates and relevant public.

4. The petitioner has thereafter sought issuance of a writ of *mandamus* directing the '*concerned department*' to resolve the issues complained of by the petitioner. Even though this writ petition is hopelessly vague, we had issued notice to the respondents as we are concerned with the computer programmes of the courts and are of the view that all necessary information should be easily accessible to the lawyers and the litigants.

5. To have an in depth insight into the real position, we have ourselves scrutinized the website of the Delhi District Courts, in our court room using a screen and a projector in the presence of the petitioner and all counsels.

6. Undoubtedly, the issues relating to accessibility of information on the website involves interplay of technology and humans. There would certainly be hiccups but such difficulties do not render the entire system inefficient and inoperable.

7. Pursuant to directions made by us, Mr. Abhilash Malhotra,

Metropolitan Magistrate, who is a member of the Centralized Computerization Committee as well as Website Committee of the Tis Hazari Courts, is present. We had also requested the appearance of an officer from the National Informatics Centre (NIC), which is facilitating the development of the software in the courts as well as responsible for maintenance of its websites and the National Judicial Data Grid.

8. In pursuance to our order, Mr. R.K. Kaul, Scientist 'F' with the National Informatics Centre is present. These officers have explained us the extensive steps which have been taken as also which are underway to ensure an efficient operation of the National Judicial Data Grid at all levels.

9. We are informed that the latest hardware has been purchased and every possible effort is being made to resolve any issues which may be existing or which may arise so far as accessibility and maintenance of the grid is concerned.

10. We are informed by Mr. R.K. Kaul that so far as the National Judicial Data Grid is concerned, it has been noticed that it has approximately 10 lakhs hits on a daily basis.

11. We also find that along with the status report dated 8th March, 2018, which has been placed on behalf of the District & Sessions Judge (Headquarters), Minutes of a Meeting dated 23rd February, 2018 of the Centralized Computerization Committee have been placed. It appears that this Committee has taken a decision to associate the petitioner as an invitee member of the Committee so that his inputs could be taken by the Committee which can be then implemented.

Needless to say, this would, if necessary, enable the petitioner to assist the computerization projects of the courts and also to facilitate all improvements as may be necessary.

12. In view of the above, it appears that all concerned authorities are extremely vigilant about the imperative needs to ensure an effective and responsive interface so that everyone could have access to the court website and retrieve information therefrom.

13. In view of the above, this writ petition need not detain us any further and is therefore, disposed of.

ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE

C.HARI SHANKAR, J

APRIL 18, 2018

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