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

+ W.P.(C) No. 534/2018 & CM APPL. No. 2270/2018

SH SOAIB

..... Petitioner

Through: Appearance not given.

versus

SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AND ORS.

..... Respondents

Through: Mr. Sunil Goel, Standing Counsel
with Ms. Supreet Bimbora, Mr.
Mayank Goel & Ms. Puja Kalra,
Advs for R1/SDMC.
Ms. Prabhsahay Kaur, Adv. for
GNCTD with ASI Krishan Kumar,
PS Jamia.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANUP JAIRAM BHAMBHANI

ORDER

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23.01.2019

The petitioner's grievance relates to alleged unauthorised construction in the subject property situate in Zakir Nagar area of New Delhi. Status report was filed by respondent No. 1 last on 30.07.2018/23.08.2018 in which respondent No. 1/SDMC asserted that demolition action and sealing action was scheduled on 07.08.2018. Status report was also filed on 30.07.2018 by respondent No. 2/Delhi Police to the same effect; further asserting that the beat staff has been instructed to keep vigil and ensure that

no further construction is carried-on in the subject property.

However learned counsel appearing for the petitioner disputes the contents of the aforesaid status reports. He, however, has nothing to show to contradict what is stated in the status reports.

Be that as it may, it is not possible for this court to monitor the foregoing matters on an on-going basis.

It also transpires that in compliance of orders of the Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 4677/1985 titled ***M.C. Mehta vs. Union of India & Ors***, vide Office Memorandum dated 25.04.2018 the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has constituted a Special Task Force to comprehensively address violations of the provisions of the Unified Building Bye Laws and Master Plan for Delhi-2021 relating *inter alia* to construction activity and land-use in Delhi. Vide another Office Memorandum dated 23.05.2018 the DDA has also formulated an action plan for monitoring construction activities in Delhi and for fixing responsibility in case of violations of the Unified Building Bye Laws and the Master Plan.

Vide order dated 20.09.2018 made in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1807/2018 titled ***Devender vs. Government of NCT of Delhi & Ors***. (and connected matters) by the Division Bench of this Court headed by Hon'ble the Chief Justice, the Court has held that in view of the setting-up of the Special Task Force under directions of the Supreme Court it is not appropriate for our court to exercise jurisdiction in matters relating to unauthorised construction; and has disposed of such matters granting liberty to the petitioners to raise their grievances before the Special Task Force so constituted, in accordance with the scheme and procedure formulated under the aforesaid two Office Memoranda.

By order dated 24.09.2018 made in a subsequent matter, being Writ Petition (Civil) No. 9938/2018 titled ***Suresh Chand Goel vs. East Delhi Municipal Corporation***, the Division Bench has followed its earlier order dated 20.09.2018 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1807/2018, similarly disposing of the writ petition, granting liberty to the petitioner to file a complaint before the Special Task Force.

To be sure, the petitions that were subject matter of the aforesaid proceedings before the Division Bench were petitions filed in public interest *and otherwise*; and related to contravention not only of sanctioned building plans but also of various laws, including the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, the Delhi Development Authority Act, 1957, the New Delhi Municipal Council Act, 1994, the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904 as also encroachment on public land etc.

The aforesaid Special Task Force is a 15-member outfit with representation of the highest level from all concerned municipal, civic, revenue and law enforcement agencies of Delhi; and is therefore ideally suited for multi-agency, coordinated action against the rampant malaise of breach of various laws, rules and regulations governing building construction and land-use in Delhi.

I am informed that as of date the Special Task Force even has its own dedicated website and mobile application to facilitate making of complaints, thereby making it even easier for parties to take their grievances before the said agency.

Accordingly, I am of the view that the correct course of action in this matter would be to dispose of the present writ petition, giving liberty to the

petitioner to file its grievance before the Special Task Force in accordance with the policy and procedure laid down for the purpose in DDA's Office Memoranda dated 25.04.2018 and 23.05.2018.

The present petition is therefore disposed of in the above terms.

ANUP JAIRAM BHAMBHANI, J.

JANUARY 23, 2019/uj