

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA
Civil Writ Jurisdiction Case No.13358 of 2019

1. Dilip Kumar Ravidas Son of Lakhan Das, Resident of Village-Shinagar, Gonawan Gondapur, P.S. Nawada, District-Nawada.
2. Amit Kumar Son of Naresh Chauhan, Resident of Village-Gonwa, P.S. Nawada, District Nawada
3. Ashok Chauhan, Son of Begum Chauhan, Resident of Village-Shivnarayan Bigha, Pachadha, Chauhan Tola, P.s. Hisua, District Nawada.

... .. Petitioner/s

Versus

1. The State of Bihar
2. The Principal secretary, Finance department, Government of Bihar
3. The Collector-Cum-District Magistrate, Nawada.
4. The Collector-cum-District Magistrate, Sheikhpura
5. The Collector-Cum-District Magistrate, Nalanda @ Biharsharif
6. The Union of India through the Secretary Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Governemnt of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
7. The Secretary Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
8. The Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, New delhi
9. The Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, New delhi.
10. The Securities and Exchange Board of India, through its Chairman Plot No C4-A, G Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East.). Mumbai-400051 having its local office at Udyog Bhawan, 3red Floor, East Gandhi Maidan, Patna.
11. The Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India, PLOT No. C4-A, G Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East). Mumbai-400051
12. Indus Weir Industries Limited through its Managing Director Arunesh Sita, 74/8, Defence Enclave, Part-1 Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, New delhi-110059, Delhi
13. Arunesh @ Arunesh Sita, Son of Sita Ram, Resident of MaaJagdamba Niketan, Ganga Gate No.33, rajapur, Mainpura, Patna.
14. Anil Kumar Trivedi Son of Parmeshwar Trivedi, Resident of 149, Jigna Tiwari Tola, Ravilganj, Saran
15. Rasheed Quamar, Son of Late Manzar Alam, Resident of 3H-319, New Patliputra Colony, Patna.
16. Prince Rana Son of Sheetal Prasad, Resident of 45/43, Naugarh, Po Kachani, District Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh
17. Mazharul Quadri, Son of Not Khnown, Resident of Basahi, P.S. Janta Bazar, District-Saran



18. Paras Nath Sharma, Son of Mahadeo Sharma Resident of 241, Yadubansh Nagar, Telidhi Chas, Po and District Bokaro, Jharkhand
19. Balchand Chaurasiya, Son of Mohan Chaurasiya, Resident of Karchi Pariva Po Singapur, District Baliya, Uttar Pradesh
20. Shyam Sunder Seth Sono f Late Ram Siromani Seth Resident of 95, G.T. Road, North Salkia, (Nandi Bagan Mor) Howrah, West Bengal
21. Parthsarthi Adhikari, Son of Madhu Suddhan Adhikari, Ward No. 14A-2, Gole Market Jayant, Waidhan Madhya Pradesh

... .. Respondent/s

Appearance :

For the Petitioner/s : Mr. Ravish Chandra, Advocate
Mr. Avinash Shekhar, Advocate
For the Respondent/s : Mr. Raghwendra Kumar, SC-22
Dr. K.N. Singh, ASG
Mrs. Punam Kumari Singh, Advocate
Mr. Pradeep Kumar, Advocate
Mr. Manojeshwar Pratap Sinha, Advocate
Mr. Abhijeet Kumar Lal, Advocate

**CORAM: HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
and
HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE PARTHA SARTHY
ORAL ORDER**

(Per: HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE)

(The proceedings of the Court are being conducted by Hon'ble the Chief Justice/ Hon'ble Judges through Video Conferencing from their residential offices/residences. Also, the Advocates and the Staffs joined the proceedings through Video Conferencing from their residences/offices.)

3 02-12-2022

Petitioners have prayed for the following relief(s):-

- i) To issue an appropriate writ, order or direction commanding and directing the respondents to take necessary steps for refund of money collected by Indus Weir Industries Limited in the garb of issuance of Redeemable Preference Shares/ deposits in Monthly Income Scheme and Recurring Deposit from petitioners and other similarly situated innocent citizens, till today with the interest of 18% per annum from the date of receipt of money from the investors/petitioners till the date of repayment.



- ii) To issue an appropriate writ, order or direction commanding and directing the respondents to initiate appropriate proceeding(s) civil as well as criminal against the Indus Weir Industries Limited and its Directors/Promoters.
- iii) To issue an appropriate writ, order or direction commanding and directing the respondents to attach the properties belonging to Indus Weir Industries Limited and its Directors/Promoters and during pendency of this writ petition restraining them to not to transfer/alienate the fund/money collected by them from the petitioners.
- iv) To grant any other relief or reliefs which the Petitioners may be found entitled to in the facts and circumstances of the case.

After the matter was heard for some time, finding the Bench not to be in favour with the submissions made across the Bar, learned counsel for the petitioners, under instructions, states that petitioners shall be content if a direction is issued to the authority concerned to consider and decide the representation which the petitioners shall be filing within a period of four weeks from today for redressal of the grievance(s).

Learned counsel for the respondents states that if such a representation is filed by the petitioners, the authority concerned shall consider and dispose it of expeditiously and preferably within a period of four months from the date of its



filing along with a copy of this order.

Statement accepted and taken on record.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in ***D. N. Jeevaraj Vs. Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka & Ors, (2016) 2 SCC 653***, paragraphs 34 to 38 observed as under:-

“34. The learned counsel for the parties addressed us on the question of the bona fides of Nagalaxmi Bai in filing a public interest litigation. We leave this question open and do not express any opinion on the correctness or otherwise of the decision of the High Court in this regard.

35. However, we note that generally speaking, procedural technicalities ought to take a back seat in public interest litigation. This Court held in *Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra v. State of U.P.* [*Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra v. State of U.P.*, 1989 Supp (1) SCC 504] to this effect as follows: (SCC p. 515, para 16)

“16. The writ petitions before us are not inter parties disputes and have been raised by way of public interest litigation and the controversy before the court is as to whether for social safety and for creating a hazardless environment for the people to live in, mining in the area should be permitted or stopped. We may not be taken to have said that for public interest litigations, procedural laws do not apply. At the same time it has to be remembered that every technicality in the procedural law is not available as a defence when a matter of grave public importance is for consideration before the court.”

36. A considerable amount has been said about public interest litigation in *R&M Trust* [*R&M Trust v. Koramangala Residents Vigilance Group*, (2005) 3 SCC 91] and it is not necessary for us to dwell any further on this except to say that in issues pertaining to good governance, the courts ought to be somewhat more liberal in entertaining public interest litigation. However, in matters that may not be of moment or a litigation essentially directed against one organisation or individual (such as the present litigation which was directed only against Sadananda Gowda and later



Jeevaraj was impleaded) ought not to be entertained or should be rarely entertained. Other remedies are also available to public spirited litigants and they should be encouraged to avail of such remedies.

37. In such cases, that might not strictly fall in the category of public interest litigation and for which other remedies are available, insofar as the issuance of a writ of mandamus is concerned, this Court held in *Union of India v. S.B. Vohra* [*Union of India v. S.B. Vohra*, (2004) 2 SCC 150: 2004 SCC (L&S) 363] that: (SCC p. 160, paras 12-13)

“**12.** Mandamus literally means a command. The essence of mandamus in England was that it was a royal command issued by the King's Bench (now Queen's Bench) directing performance of a public legal duty.

13. A writ of mandamus is issued in favour of a person who establishes a legal right in himself. A writ of mandamus is issued against a person who has a legal duty to perform but has failed and/or neglected to do so. Such a legal duty emanates from either in discharge of a public duty or by operation of law. The writ of mandamus is of a most extensive remedial nature. The object of mandamus is to prevent disorder from a failure of justice and is required to be granted in all cases where law has established no specific remedy and whether justice despite demanded has not been granted.”

38. A salutary principle or a well-recognised rule that needs to be kept in mind before issuing a writ of mandamus was stated in *Saraswati Industrial Syndicate Ltd. v. Union of India* [*Saraswati Industrial Syndicate Ltd. v. Union of India*, (1974) 2 SCC 630] in the following words: (SCC pp. 641-42, paras 24-25)

“**24.** ... The powers of the High Court under Article 226 are not strictly confined to the limits to which proceedings for prerogative writs are subject in English practice. Nevertheless, the well-recognised rule that no writ or order in the nature of a mandamus would issue when there is no failure to perform a mandatory duty applies in this country as well. Even in cases of alleged breaches of mandatory duties, the salutary general rule, which is subject to certain exceptions, applied by us, as it is in England,



when a writ of mandamus is asked for, could be stated as we find it set out in *Halsbury's Laws of England* (3rd Edn.), Vol. 11, p. 106:

‘198. Demand for performance must precede application.—As a general rule the order will not be granted unless the party complained of has known what it was he was required to do, so that he had the means of considering whether or not he should comply, and it must be shown by evidence that there was a distinct demand of that which the party seeking the mandamus desires to enforce, and that that demand was met by a refusal.’

25. In the cases before us there was no such demand or refusal. Thus, no ground whatsoever is shown here for the issue of any writ, order, or direction under Article 226 of the Constitution.”

As such, petition stands disposed of on the following terms:-

(a) Petitioners shall approach the authority concerned i.e. Respondent No. 10, namely, the Securities and Exchange Board of India, through its Chairman Plot No. C4-A, ‘G’ Block, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400051 having its local office at Udyog Bhawan, 3rd Floor, East Gandhi Maidan, Patna within a period of four weeks from today by filing a representation for redressal of the grievance(s);

(b) The said authority shall consider and dispose it of expeditiously by passing a reasoned and speaking order preferably within a period of four months from the date of its



filing along with a copy of this order;

(c) The order assigning reasons shall be communicated to the petitioners;

(d) Needless to add, while considering such representation, principles of natural justice shall be followed and due opportunity of hearing afforded to the parties;

(e) Also, opportunity to place on record all relevant materials/documents shall be granted to the parties;

(f) Equally, liberty is reserved to the petitioners to take recourse to such alternative remedies as are otherwise available in accordance with law;

(g) We are hopeful that as and when petitioners take recourse to such remedies, as are otherwise available in law, before the appropriate forum, the same shall be dealt with, in accordance with law and with reasonable dispatch;

(h) Also, liberty reserved to the petitioners to approach the Court, should the need so arise subsequently on the same and subsequent cause of action;

(i) We have not expressed any opinion on merits. All issues are left open;

(j) The proceedings shall be conducted through digital mode, unless the parties otherwise mutually agree to meet in



person i.e. physical mode.

The petition stands disposed of in the aforesaid terms.

Interlocutory Application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

(Sanjay Karol, CJ)

(Partha Sarthy, J)

P.K.P./Amrendra

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