

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA
Civil Writ Jurisdiction Case No.11118 of 2023

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Shri Ram Pratap Mahto Son of Late Ram Narayan Mahto Resident of Village-
Badabazar Ward No. 10, P.S.- Nagar, District- Madhubani, Bihar.

... .. Petitioner/s

Versus

1. The State of Bihar Through the Principal Secretary, Food and Consumer Protection Department, Government of Bihar, Patna.
2. The District Magistrate, Madhubani.
3. The Sub Divisional Officer, Sadar, Madhubani.
4. The Block Supply Officer, Block, Madhubani.

... .. Respondent/s

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Appearance :

For the Petitioner/s : Mr.Vikram Singh
For the Respondent/s : Mr.S. Raza Ahmad (Aag5)

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CORAM: HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE A. ABHISHEK REDDY
ORAL ORDER

2 19-10-2023 Heard the learned counsels for the parties.

2. This writ petition has been filed for seeking the
following relief(s):-

“(i) For issuance of a writ in the nature of Certiorari for quashing the order dated 28.01.2023 (Annexure-3) passed by the SDO, Madhubani, and also the order dated 25.03.2023 passed in Supply Appeal No. 15/2023 by the District Magistrate, Madhubani (Annexure-4) whereby and where under the Public Distribution License of the Petitioner bearing License No. 27/2017 has been cancelled on totally non-est and erroneous grounds in completely mechanical manner-without even considering the reply of the Petitioner.

(ii) For holding and declaring the Order dated 25.03.2023 passed by the District Magistrate, Madhubani, and also the order dated 28.03.2023 (Annexure-3) passed by



the SDO, Sadar, Madhubani is liable to be set-aside as same has been in violation of principles of Natural Justice, in as much as the Impugned Order has been passed without considering the facts and circumstances of the case.

(iii) For issuance of any other relief or relief(s) for which the petitioner is entitled for.”

3. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner has stated that in the Show Cause Notice issued by the Sub-Divisional Officer there is no proposal for cancellation of the license. Learned counsel has stated that non-mentioning of the proposal for cancelling his license is contrary to the provisions of order 27(ii) of the Bihar Targeted Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2016 (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Order, 2016’).

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner has relied on the judgment of the full Bench of this Hon’ble High Court passed in CWJC No.21202 of 2021 and analogous cases dated 26.09.2023 to buttress his contention that non-mentioning of the proposed action in the show-cause notice is bad in law and contrary to Rule 27(ii) of the Control Order, 2016.

5. Learned counsel has stated in view of the above mentioned provisions of law and judgment relied by the petitioner, the impugned order may be set aside and matter



remanded back to the authorities concerned for issuing a fresh show-cause notice in terms of order 27(ii) of the Control Order, 2016 and thereafter take necessary action.

6. Per contra, the learned counsel appearing on behalf of the respondents has vehemently opposed the very maintainability of the writ petition and stated that the present writ petition is not maintainable as the petitioner has exhausted the statutory remedies available under the Act. The authorities have found that the petitioner has violated the provisions of the Control Order, 2016. Learned counsel has therefore prayed this Hon'ble Court to dismiss the present writ petition.

7. This Hon'ble Court in CWJC No.21202 of 2021 and analogous cases has held as under:

“19. Accordingly, we answer the reference as under:-

It is mandatory for a licensing authority issuing a notice under order 27(ii) to a license to mention that there is a proposal for cancellation of his license, failing which such notice cannot be treated to be a valid notice of giving sufficient opportunity to the licensee to state his case under order 27(ii) of the BTPDS Control Order. ”

8. A perusal of the show-cause notice issued to the petitioner does not reveal that there is any proposal of the action sought to be taken against the petitioner. Therefore, the same



has to held as bad, illegal, contrary to the provisions of Rule 27(ii) of the Control Order and has to necessarily set aside.

9. Having regard to the above facts and circumstances and the law laid down by this Hon'ble Court, the present CWJC is allowed. The impugned order passed by the Appellate Authority dated 25.03.2023 as well as the order passed by the Sub-Divisional Officer, Sitamarhi dated 28.01.2023 are set aside. The matter is remanded back to the Sub-divisional Officer for issuing a fresh show-cause notice to the petitioner strictly in compliance with the provisions of Rule 27(ii) of the Control Order, 2016 and call for his explanation by giving him reasonable time.

10. On such show-cause notice being served, the petitioner shall file his explanation within the stipulated time. On receipt of the explanation submitted by the petitioner the authority concerned shall pass a reasoned order strictly in accordance with law duly taking into consideration the explanation submitted by the petitioner.

11. It is needless to mention that before passing any orders, the petitioner shall be given an opportunity of hearing. The entire exercise shall be completed as expeditiously as possible preferably within a period of eight weeks from the date



of receipt of a copy of this order. Any order passed shall be communicated to the petitioner.

12. With the above directions, this Writ Petition is allowed to the extent indicated above.

(A. Abhishek Reddy , J)

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