

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA
Civil Writ Jurisdiction Case No.11940 of 2023

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Gita Devi, W/O Chulhai Baitha, Resident of Village- Surujpur, P.O.-
Jiwdhara, P.S.- Pipra Kothi, District- East Champaran.

... .. Petitioner/s

Versus

1. The State of Bihar through the Secretary, Food and Consumer Protection Department, Government of Bihar, Patna.
2. The Collector-cum- District Magistrate, East Champaran at Motihari.
3. The Sub Divisional Officer, Sadar, Motihari.
4. The Block Supply Officer, Pipra Kothi, East Champaran.

... .. Respondent/s

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Appearance :

For the Petitioner/s : Mr.Dhananjaya Nath Tiwari, Adv.
For the Respondent/s : Mr.Arvind Ujjwal (SC 4)

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

5 15-05-2024 Heard the learned counsels for the parties.

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

*“.....for setting aside the order dated
04.02.2022 contained in Memo No. 58 dated
07.02.2022 by which the PDS license of the
petitioner being License No. 02200007 has
been cancelled by the Learned S.D.O Sadar
Motihari-cum-Licensing Authority and
further for quashing the order dated
10.6.2023 passed in Appeal being Numbered
as PDS appeal No. 35/2021-22 by which the
Learned Collector, East Champaran at
Motihari has dismissed the appeal and
further be pleased to restore the license and
supply of the petitioner..”*

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 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



all the remedies and all 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 10.06.2023 and the order passed by the Sub-Divisional Officer, Sadar, Motihari dated 04.02.2022 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 her explanation by giving him reasonable time.

10. On such show-cause notice being served, the petitioner shall file her 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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