

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA
Civil Writ Jurisdiction Case No.14370 of 2022

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Anil Kumar Pandey, Male, aged about 63 years, son of Panchanand Pandey
Resident of village- Bhatkeshari, Post- Bhatkeshari, District- Saran at Chapra.

... .. Petitioner/s

Versus

1. The State of Bihar through the Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar, Patna.
2. The Principal Secretary, Consumer and Food Protection Department, Government of Bihar, Patna.
3. The Commissioner, Saran Division, Chapra.
4. The District Magistrate, Saran at Chapra, District- Saran at Chapra.
5. The District Supply Officer, Saran at Chapra, District- Saran at Chapra.
6. The Sub-Divisional Officer, Sadar Chapra, District- Saran at Chapra.

... .. Respondent/s

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Appearance :

For the Petitioner/s : Mr. Awnish Kumar, Advocate.

For the Respondent/s : Mr. Arvind Ujjwal (SC 4).

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

2 04-12-2024 Heard the learned counsels for the parties.

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

“...for issuance of an appropriate writ in the nature of Certiorari for quashing the order dated 14.08.2020 passed by the Respondent No. 6 and contained in his memo No. 4941 dated 14.08.2020, whereby and whereunder the Respondent No. 6 was pleased to cancel the license of the petitioner for running a Fair Price Shop under the Bihar Targeted Public Distribution System (Control) order, 2016 on the ground that he had violated the relevant provisions of 2016 order.

(ii) For issuance of an appropriate writ in the nature of Mandamus, commanding and directing the Respondent Authorities for restoration of petitioner's license being License No. 14 of 2016 and to allow him to run his Fair Price Shop and also for a direction upon them to issue allotments of



essential commodities to the petitioner for the consumers attached with his Fair Price Shop.

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 licensee 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 be held as bad, illegal, contrary to the provisions of Rule 27(ii) of the Control Order and has to be 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 dated 14.08.2020 passed by the Sub-Divisional Officer, Sadar, Chapra, District-Saran at Chapra



(Respondent No. 6) is 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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