

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SHAJI P. CHALY

&

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ASHOK MENON

Tuesday, the 5th day of May, 2020/15th Vysakh, 1942

W.P.(C) No. 23724 of 2016

ORDER

SHAJI P. CHALY, J

Issue relates to the difficulties faced by the migrant labourers at various labour camps in the State of Kerala, especially at Perumbavoor. A report is submitted by the State Government dated 23.4.2020 detailing the steps taken adequately, to address the grievances of the migrant labourers. Paragraph 3 & 4 read thus:

"3. In this context, it is submitted that in strict compliance with the direction of the Hon'ble Apex

Court dated 07.04.2020 in W.P.(C) No.468&469/2020, the Labour Department has taken steps to address the psycho-social issues that may build up among the workers sheltered in various camps in the State. The department has also constituted District Labour Coordination Committees with District Labour Officers (Enforcement) as convenor and the officials of District Mental Health, Revenue, Police, Health, Local Self Government Departments as members. In the Taluk Level also quick response teams lead by Assistant Labour Officers aided by the officials of Revenue, Police, and Local Self Government Departments are constituted. It at all, any sort of such psychological hardships and stress are traced, directions are given to capture it in the data sheet in the real time from the fields and escalated the same to the State control room situated in the Labour Commissionerate. To negate any such incidents, didactic proceedings have been issued in this regard with minute details. True copy of the proceedings of the Labour Commissioner dated 13.4.2020 delineating the proceedings with points for orientation/sensitization in this regard is produced here with and marked as Annexure R1(a).

4. The quick response teams which include professionals from the Labour department and Mental Health department are sufficient to handle psycho-sociological issues in this tumultuous situation. Inclusion of any NGO in this wok at this time may affect the lockdown protocol prevailed in the State, on the other hand, it is most humbly submitted that

the machinery indited in corollary to the directions of Hon'ble Apex Court and the Union Home Ministry is sufficient to handle any such issue at this phase.”

2. It is also submitted by the learned Additional Advocate General that virtual platform is organised for the purpose of psychological evaluation of these persons and for understanding their grievances especially during the period of COVID - 19. Learned Amicus Curiae Smt.Parvathy Sanjay submitted that adequate help is extended by the Government of Kerala and all the Legal Service Authorities in the State and considerable efforts are undertaken to ensure that the welfare and well-being of the migrant labourers are protected to the maximum extent possible and they are satisfied with the assistance rendered by the State Government. It is also submitted by the learned Amicus Curiae that most of the migrant labourers are left from Perumbavoor to their native States consequent on the advisories issued by the Central Government, and there are no problems faced by the migrant labourers as of now.

In that view of the matter, post the matter during the 3rd week of May.

SHAJI P. CHALY, JUDGE.

ASHOK MENON, JUDGE.

smv