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* IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI

+ W.P.(C) 11382/2017 & CM APPL. 4873/2018, CM APPL. 23585/2019, CM APPL. 19890/2022

FOUNDATION FOR SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT

..... Petitioner

Through: Mr. Aakansha Kaul, Amicus Curiae with Mr. Aman Sahani, Ms. Veesha Singh, Advs.

versus

UNION OF INDIA AND ORS.

..... Respondent

- Through: Mr. Anil Soni, CGSC with Mr. Devvrat Yadav and Mr. Prateek, Adv. Mr. Santosh Kr. Tripathi, SC, GNCTD with Mr. Kartik Sharma, Adv.
 Mr. Amol Kokane, Adv for R-6. Mr. Divyam Nandrajog with Mr. Mayank Kamra, Adv for R-8. Mr. Rajesh Kumar, SPP, CBI with Ms. Ramneet Kaur, Mr. Kushaj Bhushan, Advs for CBI.
- + W.P.(C) 2004/2020 & CM APPL. 7084/2020, CM APPL. 33768/2020 CM APPL. 18841/2022

DUMPALA MEENAVATHI AND ANR. Petitioner

Through:

versus

UNION OF INDIA AND ORS.

..... Respondent





Through: Ms. Monika Arora, CGSC with Mr. Subhrodeep Saha, Adv.
Mr. Santosh Kr. Tripathi, SC, GNCTD with Mr. Kartik Sharma, Adv.
Mr. Amol Kokane, Adv for R-4 and R-6.
Mr. Rajesh Kumar, SPP, CBI with Ms. Ramneet Kaur, Mr. Kushaj Bhushan, Advs for CBI.

CORAM: HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUBRAMONIUM PRASAD

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<u>ORDER</u> 31.05.2023

A status report was filed in the matter by the Central Bureau of Investigation. A copy of the same was handed over to the learned Amicus.

The learned Amicus has handed over her suggestions to the status report in a sealed cover. It has been informed that Mr. Virendra Dev Dixit who is an absconder is uploading videos either himself or through his followers. It is stated that a large number of videos have been uploaded right from March, 2018 in at least 6 You Tube Channels and social media handles. It is stated that the Central Bureau of Investigation, inspite of best efforts has not been able to arrest Mr. Virendra Dev Dixit till date. However, the CBI can certainly investigate the matter further and can initiate the process for issuance of Letter of Requests (LOR) under Section 166A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 to the United Kingdom, Bulgaria and Nepal i.e. the places from where the videos are being uploaded.





Another important aspect of the case is that large number of ashrams are in existence in the country and the CBI is certainly required to investigate who is the owner of the ashrams, from which account the funds have been released towards payment of rent to the owners of the ashram and the documents on the basis of which the properties have been let out to the residents of the ashram.

The CBI is, therefore, directed to conduct a further probe in the matter.

It has also been further brought to the notice of this Court that the organization in question is using the word Vishwa Vidyalaya and is describing itself as Adhyatmik Vishwa Vidyalaya. The learned Counsel appearing for the ashram has informed this Court that the matter is subjudice as a SLP is pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in respect of the same organization, specially in respect of use of word Vishwa Vidyalaya and, therefore, no investigation is required at present by the Central Bureau of Investigation with regard to the same.

This Court has carefully gone through the entire report and various other reports filed from time to time. The authorities are also under an obligation to enquire whether the provisions of The Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1988 are being violated or not. Let the said exercise be done positively within 4 weeks.

A copy of the suggestions submitted by the learned Amicus have already been handed over to the learned Counsel for the Central Bureau of Investigation in a sealed cover. The Central Bureau of Investigation is also directed to take further appropriate steps for arresting Mr. Virendra Dev Dixit as he is still absconding, by taking appropriate measures.





List on 12.09.2023.

The CBI is directed to file a fresh status report in the matter before the next date of hearing.

SATISH CHANDRA SHARMA, CJ

SUBRAMONIUM PRASAD, J

MAY 31, 2023 N.Khanna