

Court No. - 21

Case :- PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION (PIL) No. - 18 of 2024

Petitioner :- Suo Motu In Re: Rodents Menace In Srn Hospital

Respondent :- State of U.P.

Counsel for Petitioner :- Suo Motu

Hon'ble Manoj Kumar Gupta, Acting Chief Justice

Hon'ble Kshitij Shailendra, J.

1. Office is directed to register a Suo Moto PIL with the title "In Re: Rodents Menace in SRN Hospital".
2. We are prompted to direct for registration of the case in suo motu exercise of power after going through a news item published in daily newspaper "*Amar Ujala*" dated 17.1.2024 with the title "एसआरएन अस्पताल में चूहे पी रहे ग्लूकोज, खा रहे हैं मल्टी विटामिन". It highlights the menace of rodents in the hospital and the extent to which they are causing harm to the medicines and other articles stored in the hospital. It also refers to statement of Dr. Ajay Saxena, Chief Superintendent, SRN Hospital, admitting that despite best efforts, the menace is still prevailing and options are being explored to deal with it. In case, the news item is correct, it is a potential threat to the patients visiting the hospital and those who are already admitted therein and a health hazard. Therefore, we requested Sri Manish Goyal, learned Additional Advocate General, assisted by Sri A.K. Goyal, learned Additional Chief Standing Counsel, to seek instructions today itself and directed the Office to place the instant matter at 2 p.m.
3. Accordingly, the matter was again taken up at 2 p.m. The instructions received by Sri A.K. Goyal, learned Additional Chief Standing Counsel, from SRN Hospital, are taken on record.

4. According to the instructions, the work of controlling rodent menace in the hospital has been outsourced to a housekeeping agency - A 1 Facility and Property Managers Private Limited. The said agency has submitted a report addressed to the Chief Superintendent, SRN Hospital, stating that it is taking several measures to control the rodents, like providing rodent traps, rat pads, rat kill, etc. The agency has assured the Chief Superintendent of taking the issue with all seriousness and to lodge a special drive to contain the menace. Though instructions are also to the effect that medicines are properly stored and presence of rodents is only due to attendants of patients who bring eatables inside the premises of the hospital, such an excuse does not impress the Court to justify the helplessness of the authorities and staff of the hospital and, in fact, there is an admission on the part of the hospital authorities that rodents are creating all troubles in the premises.

5. Since the issue is of public importance, affecting the health of those visiting the hospital and taking treatment there, consequently, we propose to monitor the measures being taken to control the menace.

6. We, accordingly, require the Chief Superintendent, SRN Hospital to bring on record the details of the contract entered into by SRN Hospital with the Agency; the amount paid to the said Agency; the steps taken by the Agency to control the problem; and the steps, the respondents have taken or propose to take, to prevent breeding of rodents in and around the SRN Hospital.

7. List on 12.2.2024 as a fresh case.

8. The newspaper on basis of which cognizance has been taken will form part of the present proceeding.

(Kshitij Shailendra, J.) (Manoj Kumar Gupta, A.C.J.)

Order Date :- 17.1.2024

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