

The High Court Of Madhya Pradesh

WP No. 3610 of 2022

(JALAM SINGH PATEL Vs UNION OF INDIA AND OTHERS)

Jabalpur, Dated : 16-02-2022

Shri Pankaj Dubey, learned counsel for petitioner.

Petitioner has filed this petition making a prayer to pass gag order and direct respondents not to publish, print or telecast any news mentioning the name of petitioner regarding the private affair of son of petitioner.

Learned counsel for petitioner submitted that there is marital dispute between son of petitioner and his daughter in law. Said affair is private life of petitioner's son and daughter-in-law. Press is unnecessarily publishing the name of petitioner though he has nothing to do with the marital dispute of his son and daughter-in-law. News are published in such a way so as to defame the petitioner. Learned counsel for petitioner relied on Norms of Journalistic Conduct and submitted that caution is to be exercised against defamatory writings and there has to be pre-publication verification by Press. Press has not conform to norms of Journalistic Conduct. It is further submitted that privacy of public figure is also to be maintained. Intentionally for getting increased readership/viewership respondents are publishing the news in such a way so as to defame the petitioner and connect him with the matter. They are not maintaining the privacy of petitioner and not following the Norms of Journalistic Conduct.

Issue notice to respondents, by both modes, on payment of P.F within seven days.

Notice be made returnable within four weeks.

As an interim measure it is directed that respondent nos.6 to 13 shall take care that they will conform with the Norms of Journalistic Conduct and will not publish the name of petitioner in marital dispute of his son which does not involve him. Privacy of petitioner is to be maintained by respondents and no news be published by his name.

List the matter in the week commencing from 21.3.2022.

C.C as per rules.

mms

