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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ **W.P.(C) 2161/2017**

DELHI ROZI-ROTI ADHIKAR ABHIYAN Petitioner
Through: Mr. Sanjay Parikh, Sr. Advocate with Mr.
Prasanna S., Advocate

versus

UNION OF INDIA AND ORS Respondents
Through: Mr. B.S. Shukla, Advocate for R-1
Mr. Anuj Aggarwal, Advocate for
R-2/GNCTD
Mr. Zoheb Hussain, Advocate for R-3

CORAM:
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SIDDHARTH MRIDUL
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE TALWANT SINGH

ORDER
% **27.04.2020**

The present matter has been heard by way of Video Conferencing.

CM APPL. NO.10410/2020

Exemption granted subject to all just exceptions.

The application is disposed of accordingly.

CM APPL. NO.10409/2020

Issue notice.

Counsel, as above, accept notice on behalf of the non-applicants/respondents and pray for time to file replies.

Let the replies to the present application be filed within a period of three working days from today with advance copies to counsel for the applicant/petitioner, who may file rejoinder thereto, if any, before the next date of hearing.

List on 06.05.2020.

We have heard learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner/applicant, as well as, learned counsel appearing on behalf of the respondents, including particularly counsel appearing on behalf of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (for short 'GNCTD'), at length.

We observe that, the distress caused to the residents of the city, by the ongoing lockdown imposed in order to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus, has been further aggravated by the stated denial of access to food grain to the poor, under-privileged and marginalized sections of the populace, even though we are informed at the Bar that, the GNCTD is undertaking necessary steps to alleviate their suffering through various measures, stated to include the serving of hot meals twice a day at a large number of specified locations.

We, therefore, direct that, in the meantime, the GNCTD shall ensure that, all ration shops remain operational and disburse PDS food grains, in accordance with the policy formulated by both the Central Government, as well as, the State Government in this regard; and further ensure delivery of the requisite food grains from the PDS ration shops, on a regular basis between 09:00 a.m. to 01:00 p.m. and 03:00 p.m. to 07:00 p.m., on all seven days of the week.

The GNCTD shall also ensure that food grains are distributed to the poor, needy and marginalized non-PDS residents from the PDS, as well as, other distribution centers stated to be set-up by them, for the said purpose.

The GNCTD shall further ensure that the Sub-Divisional Magistrates of each district carry out strict and regular monitoring and oversight of the distribution of food grains, as afore directed and upload the details of shop-wise distribution of ration to both the PDS and non-PDS residents on their official website, at the end of each day.

The GNCTD shall furthermore, widely publicize and circulate the information qua the compliance of the directions issued hereinabove, both through the print and electronic media, on a daily basis.

The GNCTD is also directed to immediately place on their official website, as well as, publicize through the print and electronic media, Grievance Helpline Numbers, so as to enable members of the public, who may be aggrieved qua the lack of distribution of the food grains, to seek redressal of their grievances, by contacting the Nodal Officers appointed for the said purpose, whose details shall also be placed in the public domain, forthwith.

The Nodal Officers shall address the grievances so received and respond to the persons aggrieved, by placing on the official website the action taken by them in that behalf.

A copy of this order be provided to learned counsel appearing on behalf of the parties electronically. A copy of this order be uploaded on the website of this Court forthwith.

SIDDHARTH MRIDUL, J

TALWANT SINGH, J

APRIL 27, 2020

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