IN THE HIGH COURT OF MADHYA PRADESH AT JABALPUR

CONC No. 832 of 2015

(BHOPAL GAS PEEDITH MAHILA UDYOG SANGHATHAN AND OTHERS Vs SHRI RAJESH BHUSHAN AND OTHERS)

Dated: <u>03-01-2023</u>

Shri N.D. Jayprakash - petitioner in person.

Shri Vikram Singh - Advocate for respondents No.1, 2, 5, 6,7,8.

Shri Vivek Sharma - Deputy Advocate General for respondent/State.

Shri Piyush Jain - Advocate for Monitoring Committee.

Shri R. Ramkrishnan - Senior Deputy Director General (Administration), ICMR

The first direction under paragraph 35 of the order of Apex Court dated 09.08.12 passed in Writ Petition (Civil) No.50/1998 (non compliance of which is alleged), relates to digitization of records not only of BMHRC but also the six Gas Rahat Hospitals and the attached clinics.

Undoubtedly, these directions have to be complied with by National Informatics Centre (NIC). It is informed that Shri Amar Kumar Sinha, impleaded as respondent No.8 as State Information Officer of NIC at Bhopal, has since retired and has been succeeded by one Shri Vijay Kumar Vishwakarma as State Information Officer.

The petitioner is directed to implead the said Officer Shri Vijay Kumar Vishwakarma as respondent No.9 for which no separate application shall be required.

Let the same be done within two days.

Since Shri Vikram Singh, Advocate who was representing respondent No.8, is directed to seek instructions on behalf of the newly added respondent

Shri Vijay Kumar Vishwakarma.

The newly added respondent No.9 is directed to file an affidavit on the next date only in regard to compliance of directions passed by the Apex Court as aforesaid.

It is pertinent to mention here that the last report of Monitoring Committee and return of respondents No.1,5,6&7 filed on 14.07.2022 disclose number of deficiencies in the compliance made as regards directions contained in paragraph 35(9) of the aforesaid order of the Apex Court including that merely about seventy-six thousand health books/medical records have been digitalized as against more than four lakhs gas victims to whom smart cards have been prepared/issued.

It is made clear that, if satisfactory reply is not filed by the newly added respondent, this Court may proceed to call upon the appropriate respondent to explain as to why he/she be not punished for contempt of the Apex Court.

Two weeks' time is granted to file reply.

List the matter in the week commencing 30th January, 2023.

(SHEEL NAGU) JUDGE (VIRENDER SINGH) JUDGE