

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT PATNA
Criminal Writ Jurisdiction Case No.1696 of 2023

Arising Out of PS. Case No.- Year-0 Thana- District- Buxar

STPL A Subsidiary Company Of SJVNL (Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited)
... .. Petitioner/s

Versus

The State Of Bihar Through The Chief Secretary, Bihar, Patn & Ors.
... .. Respondent/s

Appearance :

For the Petitioner/s : Mr. Lalit Kishore, Sr. Advocate
Mr. Ranjeet Kumar, Advocate
Mr. Niraj Kumar, Advocate
Mr. Mohit Sriwastava, Advocate
Mr. Ayush Kumar, Advocate
Mr. Kanish Kaustabh , Advocate
Mr. Shikhar Moni, Advocate
For the Respondent/s : Mr. P.K. Shahi, A.G.
Mr. Manish Kumar, Advocate

CORAM: HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE RAJEEV RANJAN PRASAD
ORAL ORDER

3 17-10-2023 Heard Mr. Lalit Kishore, learned Senior counsel for the petitioner assisted by Mr. Ranjeet Kumar, learned counsel; learned Advocate General Mr. P.K. Shahi assisted by Mr. Manish Kumar, learned G.P.-4 for the State of Bihar and Mr. Ansul Agarwal, the District Magistrate, Buxar who has joined the hearing through hybrid mode.

2. Earlier when the matter was taken up for consideration at about 2:30 pm, the Court was informed that the District Magistrate, Buxar together with the Senior Superintendent of Police, Buxar would be visiting the plant premises to find out as to how many workers/staffs of the company are inside the premises who are unable to come



outside because the main gate has been kept locked under lock and key by the protesters. The District Magistrate, Buxar assured this Court that after visiting the said area he will report to this Court at 4:00 pm.

3. At 4:00 pm when the matter has been taken up for consideration, the District Magistrate, Buxar has informed this Court that about 50 persons are there inside the premises and it is a fact that the main gate of the plant has been kept locked and the protesters are sitting in front of the main gate. The District Magistrate submits that he has held several rounds of talks with the protesters, however, the talks will continue as they have got some demands which may only be considered at an appropriate level.

4. So far as this Court is concerned, this Court is taking up the matter only to ensure the safety and security of the staffs and the workers who are said to have been kept captive inside the plant and are not being allowed to come outside.

5. Mr. Lalit Kishore, learned Senior counsel for the petitioner has informed even to the extent that the staffs are not having cloths to change and they are virtually surviving somehow, they are not even getting proper food and those who have come outside the plant premises, they are unable to go



inside to their residential flats. These are the difficulties which have been expressed before this Court. The District Magistrate has informed further that he would be taking all appropriate steps in consultation with the Senior Superintendent of Police, Buxar to ensure that the main gate of the plant premises is opened by tomorrow morning to enable the staffs and the workers of the company a free movement to their residential area and the plant premises. For this purpose, he would also discuss with the protesters to shift themselves at some distance from the main gate.

6. Keeping in view the aforesaid stand of the District Magistrate, Buxar, this matter is being adjourned for tomorrow.

7. As requested by learned Advocate General, let it be called out tomorrow at 2:15 pm. The District Magistrate, Buxar shall also join hearing in hybrid mode.

8. This Court expects that in the meantime, the District Magistrate, Buxar shall make all endeavours to resolve the issues.

9. List accordingly.

(Rajeev Ranjan Prasad, J)

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