

ITEM NO.50

COURT NO.1

SECTION PIL

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A  
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

Writ Petition(s) (Civil) No(s). 826/2014

VASUNDHARA PATHAK MASOODI

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA

Respondent(s)

with

W.P. (C) ..DD NO. 29727 of 2014

[with office report]

Date : 12/09/2014 These petitions were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE KURIAN JOSEPH

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ROHINTON FALI NARIMAN

For Petitioner(s)

WP 826

Petitioner-in-person

WP...D.No. 29727

Prof. Bhim Singh, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Colin Gonsalves, Sr. Adv.

Mr. Dinesh Kumar Garg, Adv.

For Respondent(s)

UOI

Mr. Mukul Rohatgi, AG

State Government

Mr. Ashok Mathur, Adv.

Mr. G.M. Kawoosa, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following  
O R D E R

Massive floods in Kashmir Valley have  
created horror and we are informed that more than  
400 villages are affected and five lac people are  
still stranded. The petitioners have prayed for

immediate rescue, relief and rehabilitation of the affected persons.

2. Mr. Colin Gonsalves, learned senior counsel has placed before us a note which mentions that eight districts namely; Kulgam, Anantnag, Shopian, Pulwama, Ganderbal, Baramulla, Budgam and Srinagar are gravely affected by the floods. It is also stated that there is immediate requirement of large number of helicopters, doctors, medicines, food including pediatric food, baby articles, blankets, life jackets, drinking water, sanitary pads, tents, warm clothes and footwear, fuel and other essential supplies. It is submitted that for such massive tragedy, the national response is required and Union of India must declare the present situation in Kashmir Valley as a natural calamity and national disaster. It is also suggested that for meeting calamity and disaster of this magnitude, all the States and Union Territories of India must be immediately encouraged to respond and provide the above requirements.

3. Mr. Mukul Rohatgi, learned Attorney General submits that Union of India is conscious of the

seriousness of the situation and a committee headed by the Prime Minister is overseeing and co-ordinating the rescue and relief operations. He further submits that rescue operations by the Armed Forces are working in full swing and the Chief of the Army Staff himself is monitoring these operations.

4. The petitioners do not dispute the commendable work being done by the Armed Forces in rescue operations but they submit that the current rescue operations are too inadequate for such huge disaster.

5. It needs no emphasis from us that a calamity and disaster as huge as this deserves national response so that immediate relief is made available to the victims of floods.

6. We have no doubt that Government of India is concerned about the calamity that has affected large number of people in valley. We are sure that the Union Government will take all necessary steps urgently in accelerating the rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations. While doing so, the Union Government may also keep in view the

suggestions given by Mr. Colin Gonsalves in the form of note, copy of which has been given to the learned Attorney General and so also the suggestions given by the other petitioners.

7. The Government of India may also consider forming a Unified Agency for proper co-ordination of rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations. It goes without saying that supply of food, drinking water, medicines, fuel and other essential supplies deserve top-most priority and so also the restoration of communication and provision for health-care facilities. After all, lives of people who are affected by such disaster have to be saved.

8. List both matters on 15.9.2014.

(PARDEEP KUMAR)  
AR-cum-PS

(RENU DIWAN)  
COURT MASTER