

ITEM NO.5

SECTION X

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 (Civil) No.467/2020

MUSTAFA MH

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ANR.

Respondent(s)

Date : 27-03-2020 This petition was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE DR. JUSTICE D.Y. CHANDRACHUD
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SURYA KANT

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Sanjay R. Hegde, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Ashish Virmani, AOR

For Respondent(s)

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

The Court convened through Video Conferencing.

Mr. Sanjay Hegde, learned senior counsel who has appeared in support of the Writ Petition under Article 32 of the Constitution, instructed by Mr. Ashish Virmani, Advocate-on-Record submits that about 500 Indian citizens from Ladakh, who had gone to Qom, Iran on a pilgrimage, are presently stranded there. About 250 persons who had also proceeded on a pilgrimage to Qom have been brought back to India. Mr. Hegde, learned senior counsel states that several of the existing batch of 500 persons may have tested positive for Covid-19.

Many of them have no funds available for their maintenance. Hence, urgent humanitarian assistance is required to be provided to these persons by the Government of India.

The contents of the petition under Article 32 of the Constitution indicate that there is an urgent need for humanitarian assistance to be provided to Indian citizens who are stranded in Qom. In order to obviate concern over their well being, we issue notice to the Union of India, returnable on 30 March 2020.

We request Mr. Tushar Mehta, learned Solicitor General to assist the Court and to place a status report of the steps which have been taken and which the Union of India through the Ministry of External Affairs proposes to undertake to alleviate the hardship which has been faced by these persons. We hope and trust that in the meantime all necessary steps that are required to protect the welfare of these citizens will be adopted and a suitable plan of action will be chalked out in consultation with all the concerned authorities, including the Indian Embassy in Iran.

List the Writ Petition on 30 March 2020.

The Registrar (Judicial) shall forward in the electronic mode a copy of the Writ Petition under Article 32 of the Constitution, together with this order to the Solicitor General.

(Chetan Kumar)
A.R. -cum-P.S.

(Anand Prakash)
Court Master