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

+ W.P.(C) 2973/2020 & CM APPL.10318/2020

ALL INDIA COUNCIL OF HUMAN RIGHTS
LIBERTIES AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

..... Petitioner

Through: Mr. Arjun Sayal, Ms.Mithu Jain,
Advocates

versus

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

..... Respondents

Through: Ms. Maninder Acharya, ASG for UOI
Mr. Sanjoy Ghose, ASC for GNCTD
Mr. Rajshekhar Rao, Advocate for
respondent No.4/Delhi Commission
for Women.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE J.R. MIDHA

HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE JYOTI SINGH

ORDER

% **18.04.2020**

W.P.(C) 2973/2020 & CM APPL.10318/2020 & CM APPL. _____ (to be numbered)

1. The petitioner has filed this PIL for protection of victims of domestic abuse/violence which according to them has increased many fold since Lockdown imposed by the Government due to Covid-19.
2. The petitioner has made prayers for enforcement of the provisions of the Disaster Management Act for protection of the victims of domestic abuse/violence.
3. During the course of the hearing, learned counsel for the petitioner submits that he restricts this petition to the enforcement of the provisions of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (hereinafter referred as Domestic Violence Act) and a fresh application has been filed

seeking the prayers for enforcement of the provisions of the Domestic Violence Act.

4. Issue notice to respondent Nos.1 to 6 with respect to the measures required for the protection of victims of domestic abuse/violence under the Domestic Violence Act. Learned counsels for respondent Nos.1 to 6 accept notice.

5. Learned counsels for respondent Nos.1 to 6 submit that various steps have been taken for protection of the victims of domestic abuse/violence. Respondent No.3 and respondent No.5 have already filed status report with respect to the measures that are being presently undertaken respectively by the Government of NCT of Delhi and DCW under the provisions of the Domestic Violence Act. Learned Additional Solicitor General Ms. Maninder Acharya submits that the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, has issued an Office Order dated 25.03.2020 taking cognizance of the spike in domestic violence cases on account of lockdown and has noticed in the Order that a quick response mechanism is required due to special circumstances that are prevailing. Accordingly, the Ministry has issued certain directions to the concerned District Collectors/District Magistrates to make suitable duty roster for the concerned officers so that they are able to provide essential services to the affected victims of domestic violence. They have also been directed to undertake appropriate measures to provide transport as well as protective gears and other logistic support to the helpline personnel, enabling them to render help and take requisite measures in case calls are received from the victims.

6. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that certain more effective measures need to be put in place, as it is a matter of record and statistics that the cases of domestic violence are on a rise, on account of the women being

confined to their homes.

7. This Court is of the view that the respondent Nos.1 to 6 should convene a meeting at the highest level to consider the suggestions of the petitioner made in the petition as well as the application filed today. Respondents shall also deliberate on what additional measures can be undertaken in order to curb the incidences of domestic violence as well as towards protection of the victims. The decision be taken within three days and the fresh steps required for protection of the victims of domestic abuse/violence be implemented immediately thereafter.

8. The respondents would file a fresh status report in this regard before the next date of hearing.

9. List on 24th April, 2020.

J.R. MIDHA, J.

JYOTI SINGH, J.

APRIL 18, 2020

ak /srb