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

+ WP(C) 3205/2020 & C.M. 11151/2020 & 11152/2020

SHABNAM

..... Petitioner

Through: Mr. K.K. Mishra, Advocate

versus

GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI & ORS

....Respondents

Through: Ms. Hetu Arora Sethi, Advocate
for respondent Nos.1, 3 & 4

Mr. Manoj, Advocate for
respondent No.2

None for respondent No.5

CORAM:

HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE HIMA KOHLI

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUBRAMONIUM PRASAD

ORDER

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20.05.2020

HEARD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING.

1. The present PIL has been filed by Ms. Shabnam, a resident of Sultan Puri, Delhi with a grievance that despite e-coupons being issued to 73 persons, all residents of Sultan Puri, as mentioned in Annexure-1 annexed to the petition and 1909 e-coupons to others in the area as mentioned in Annexure-5 enclosed with the petition, they have not been delivered ration from the Ration Distribution Centre for the past one month.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner has made representations to the respondent No.1/GNCTD, requesting that ration through e-coupons be delivered through the ration shops at the earliest because the e-coupon holders are returning empty handed due to paucity of ration, before filing the present petition.

3. We may note that the petitioner has impleaded the GNCTD as also the District Magistrate, North-West District, as respondents No.1 and 3 and respondent No.4, respectively. FCI has been impleaded as respondent No.2 and the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, UOI has been impleaded as respondent No.5. However, no relief is directed against the respondents No.2 and 3. Mr. Manoj, learned counsel for the respondent No.2 states that FCI is neither a necessary nor a proper party in the proceedings.

4. Ms. Hetu Arora Sethi, learned counsel for the respondent Nos.1, 3 and 4 concedes that there has been a paucity of ration at some PDS centres, including the one at Nigam School, Sultan Puri, Delhi. She assures the Court that all the e-coupon holders in the area, including those mentioned in Annexure-1 and the balance 1909 e-coupon holders mentioned in Annexure-5 shall be supplied ration through the Ration distribution centre set-up at Nigam School, Sultan Puri. She submits that efforts have been made to supply sufficient ration to the said Ration distribution centre but there are still e-coupon holders who have not received the ration. She seeks one week's time to supply ration to the e-coupon holders.

5. It is most unacceptable that e-coupons have been distributed in such a large number and yet the e-coupon holders are left high and dry. GNCTD ought to have ensured that sufficient quantities of ration is made available in proportion to the number of e-coupon issued for purposes of distribution.

6. It is directed that the respondents No.1, 3 and 4/GNCTD shall ensure that all the pending e-coupon holders are supplied ration through the ration distribution centre at Nigam School, Sultan Puri by tomorrow evening itself, failing which the petitioner shall be entitled to approach this Court by filing an application. Any non-compliance shall be viewed seriously.

7. The petition is disposed of, along with the pending applications. A copy of this order shall be uploaded on the website of the High Court today itself and a copy sent through e-mail to the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned counsel for the respondents No.1, 3 and 4.

HIMA KOHLI, J.

SUBRAMONIUM PRASAD, J.

MAY 20, 2020
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