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

+ W.P.(C) 3270/2020

COURT ON ITS OWN MOTION Petitioner

Through: Court on its own Motion.

Versus

GNCT OF DELHI AND ORS. Respondents

Through: Mr.Sanjoy Ghose, ASC with
Mr.Naman Jain, Adv. for GNCTD.

Mr.Akhil Mittal, Adv. for North DMC.

Mr.Dhanesh Relan, Adv. for South DMC.

Mr.Harish Kumar Khinchi, Adv. for East
DMC.

CORAM:

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRATEEK JALAN

ORDER

02.06.2020

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1. Proceedings of the matter has been conducted through video conferencing.

2. This writ petition has been initiated by the Court on its own motion vide order dated 28th May, 2020, taking note of reports regarding slow disposal of the dead bodies by the respondent authorities, especially in the context of the present Coronavirus pandemic. Accordingly, this Court directed the respondents to file their status report/affidavit.

3. We have heard the learned counsel for the respondents. It is submitted by the learned counsel for the respondents at length that now steps have been initiated by the respondent No.1 as well as by other respondents. The status of the disposal of the dead bodies has also been pointed out by

respondent No.1 in paragraph-6 of the status report dated 1st June, 2020. Similarly, the reasons for the backlog etc. have been mentioned in paragraphs-3 and 4 of the said status report. It is also stated that besides Nigam Bodh Ghat crematorium now Pachkuiyan and Punjabi Bagh crematoriums are also authorised to dispose of the dead bodies of persons who were Covid positive or suspected to be Covid positive. Moreover, timings of the crematoriums which was 9:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m. have now been extended to 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

4. Looking to paragraph-6 of the status report of respondent No.1, it appears that as on 31st May, 2020 out of total 45 dead bodies only 7 were disposed of and 10 new dead bodies were received. We would like to know from the respondents the reasons for slow disposal of these dead bodies. We, therefore, direct the respondents to file further status report/affidavit, also stating whether the guidelines/directions issued by Government of NCT of Delhi dated 30th May, 2020 (Annexure -1 to the status report filed by R-1.) is scrupulously being followed.

5. It is one thing to issue the directions/guidelines and it is absolutely a different thing to ensure the execution of those directions. We are not burdening the respondents by adding any further directions to the directions already issued by the respondent No.1 on 30th May, 2020. However, what we expect from the respondents is, proper execution of those guidelines/directions so that the aforesaid dead bodies may be disposed of at the earliest and the relatives of those persons who have expired should be informed and other formalities be completed immediately.

6. Mr. Akhil Mittal, the learned counsel for the respondent No.2/North

DMC submitted that the page Nos.6,7 and 8 have been annexed inadvertently with the short affidavit dated 31st May, 2020 filed by the respondent No.2. The Registry is, therefore, directed to remove the page Nos.6, 7 and 8 annexed with the said affidavit dated 31st May, 2020.

7. List on 15th June, 2020. The status report/affidavit be filed by the respondents, two days in advance.

CHIEF JUSTICE

PRATEEK JALAN, J

JUNE 02, 2020

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