

W.P. No. 13047 of 2020

N. KIRUBAKARAN,J.

AND

R. PONGIAPPAN,J.

(Order of the Court was made by N. KIRUBAKARAN,J.)

The matter was heard through 'videoconferencing'.

2. The writ petition has been filed by Mrs. Sudha Ramalingam, a learned Senior Member of the Bar for issue of a Writ of Mandamus directing respondents 1 to 3 herein to forthwith formulate and put in place a Group Health Insurance (Medi Claim Policy) for advocates enrolled with the 1st respondent Bar Council and their dependent family members.

3. Taking into consideration, around 65,000/- advocates are on the rolls of Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, as on date, who have got Certificate of Place of Practice, their interests should be taken care of as they do not have any Health Insurance Policy. On account of Covid Pandemic, many advocates lost their lives due to lack of Mediclaim Policy. Though there are many Insurance Companies, only a few Insurance

Companies are coming forward to offer insurance coverage. Moreover, money involved is not huge and without the participation of the State Government, it is impossible to make a coverage.

4. In any event, this Court would like to get details as to how to go about this matter. Therefore, this Court would constitute a Committee to give recommendations so as to enable this Court to pass appropriate orders with regard to medical insurance coverage to advocates.

5. Accordingly, a Committee is constituted and the learned Advocate General, who is the leader of the Bar, the ex-officio Chairman of Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry and the Chairman of Advocates' Welfare Fund, is requested to be the Chairman of the Committee and he would be in a better position to interact with the Government in case of any viable proposal given by the Committee. The following persons are nominated as members of the said Committee:

- (1) Mrs. Sudha Ramalingam (Learned Senior Member of the Bar)
- (2) Mr.N. Vijayaraghavan (Learned Member of the Bar, an expert in

Insurance Laws)

- (3) Mr.S. Arunkumar (Learned Member of the Bar, Standing Counsel for National Insurance Company)
- (4) Mr.R. Sankaranarayanan (Additional Solicitor General)
- (5) Mr.M.R. Sivasubramaniam (Bar council Member)
- (6) Mr.P. Manoharan (Former Senior Divisional Manager, National Insurance company Limited)
- (7) Mr.C.K. Chandrasekaran (Learned Member of the Bar, Standing counsel for Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry) and
- (8) Ms.Devika (Learned Member of the Bar)

6. Mr.P.H. Arvindh Pandian, learned Additional Advocate General will be the co-ordinator of the Committee and the Member Secretary of Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry will be the Convenor of the Committee, who will interact with representatives of various Insurance Companies and suggest viable proposals so that all the advocates can be covered. Mr.N.Vijayaraghavan, learned counsel has already filed a typed set of papers and the same can be placed. The

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members need not be physically present in the meeting and they are at liberty to participate virtually.

7. Post the matter on 22.04.2021.

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(N.K.K.J.) (R.P.A.J.)
25.03.2021

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