## Secr., Ministry Of Defence Secretary vs Babita Puniya on 7 July, 2020

## Bench: D.Y. Chandrachud, Indu Malhotra

MA 1125-1127/2020

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ITEM NO.10 Virtual Court 4

SECTION X

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS INDIA

Miscellaneous Application Nos.1125-1127/2020 In Civil Appeal Nos.9367-9369/2011

SECR., MINISTRY OF DEFENCE SECRETARY

Petitioner(

**VERSUS** 

BABITA PUNIYA & ORS.

Respondent (

(With appln.(s) for extension of time and exemption from filing affidavit)

Date: 07-07-2020 These petitions were called on for hearing today.

CORAM:

HON'BLE DR. JUSTICE D.Y. CHANDRACHUD HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE INDU MALHOTRA

For Petitioner(s) Mr. R. Balasubramanian, Sr. Adv.

Ms. Neela Gokhale, Adv. Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, AOR

For Respondent(s) Ms. Meenakashi Lekhi, Adv.

Mr. Harish Pandey, AOR

Ms. Meenakshi Arora, Sr. Adv. Ms. Archana Pathak Dave, AOR Ms. Chitrangda Rastravara, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following  $$\rm O\ R\ D\ E\ R$$ 

1 An application has been filed by the Union government seeking an extension of time of six months to comply with the judgment of this Court dated 17 February 2020. 17:26:54 IST Reason:

## MA 1125-1127/2020

- 2 Ms Meenakshi Lekhi, learned counsel and Ms Meenakshi Arora, learned senior counsel submitted that they apprehend that an effort is likely to be made not to comply with the judgment and order of this Court by placing hurdles in the career path of women officers in the Army.
- 3 To allay the above apprehension, Mr R Balasubramanian, learned senior counsel appearing on behalf of the Union of India states that the Union government is committed to implement the judgment of this Court dated 17 February 2020 in letter and spirit. It has been submitted that the process of doing this is at an advanced stage of implementation. The Court has been apprised of the fact that it was as a result of the lock down occasioned by the outbreak of Covid-19 that the process could not be completed within the time set out by the judgment of this Court.
- 4 We are inclined to grant an extension of time in view of administrative difficulties which arose following the outbreak of Covid-19. The time for compliance prescribed in the judgment of this Court dated 17 February 2020 is extended by one month from today.
- 5 The miscellaneous application stands disposed of.

(CHETAN KUMAR)
AR-cum-PS

(RAJ ASSIST