

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION NO.52 OF 2013
WITH
CHAMBER SUMMONS (L) NO.36 OF 2016

Priscilla Samuel

Petitioner

versus

Union of India and others

Respondents

Mr.Priscilla Samuel, Petitioner in person, present.

Mr.Anil Singh, Senior Advocate with Mr.D.P.Singh and Mr.Yash
Maurya for Respondent no.1 Union Government.

Ms.Trupiti Puranik for MCGM.

Mr.Abhay Patki, Addl.Govt.Pleader for State.

Mr.Rushail Navani with Mr.S.B.Pawar i/by M/s.S.K.Legal for
Respondent nos.8 and 9.

CORAM : SHANTANU S. KEMKAR AND
PRAKASH D. NAIK, JJ.

DATE : 21st November 2016

PC :

1. Heard the Petitioner in person. The State has not complied with earlier order passed by this Court on 16th June 2016. The State was directed to create a grievance redressal mechanism for dealing with the grievances of members of public and in particular the women, as regards illegalities associated with websites so that aggrieved citizens and in particular women will have a forum where the complaints can be filed. It was further observed that if there is substance in the complaints, criminal law can be set in motion apart from taking other actions on the persons running the websites.

2. The Petitioner has pointed out that on 16th June 2016, after perusal of the affidavit of Mr. Manoj Shantaram Patankar, District Women and Children Welfare Officer, Mumbai Suburban District dated 26th April 2016, this Court noticed that in paragraph no.3 of the said affidavit, following averment was made :

"3. As regards the appointing of Dowry Prohibition Officers under Section 8-B of the Dowry Prohibition Act is concerned, I say that it has been decided as a policy, to consider and appoint Class-I Officer who would be entrusted additional charge to function as Dowry Prohibition Officer in place of the existing Police Officers also functioning as Dowry Prohibition Officer, to be posted at Mumbai City, Mumbai Suburban and District level. Similarly, the Class-II Officers from the Child Development and Protection Officer (CDPO) would also be entrusted additional charge to function as Dowry Prohibition Officer at Taluka level. I say that this entire process would be put into effect within a period of next two months. Since there are large number of vacant posts in the Child Development and Protection Officer (Class-2), we have sent our requisition of MPSC to fill up the vacant posts. In the meantime, the Police Officers will continue to function the role as Dowry Prohibition Officer, until such time these Child Development and Protection Officers (Class-2) are entrusted with the duty and to function as Dowry Prohibition Officers".

3. However, we find that this assurance has also not been fulfilled by the State as yet. Learned AGP is directed to make position clear on or before the next date of hearing. The matter be listed on 14th December 2016.

(PRAKASH D. NAIK, J.)

(SHANTANU S. KEMKAR, J.)

MST