

Govansh Sewa Sadan vs Union Of India And Ors on 11 November, 2024

Author: Anil Kshetarpal

Bench: Anil Kshetarpal

Neutral Citation No:=2024:PHHC:146414-DB

CWP-2396-2018

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

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CWP-2396-2018

Date of decision: 11.11.2024

GOVANSH SEWA SADAN

..Petitioner

Versus

UNION OF INDIA AND ORS

..Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SHEEL NAGU, CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANIL KSHETARPAL

Present: Mr. Vivek Aggarwal, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Satya Pal Jain, Addl. Solicitor General of India
with Mr. Dheeraj Jain, Sr. Panel Counsel
for respondent-UOI.

Mr. Salil Sabhlok, Sr. DAG, Punjab.

Mr. Naveen S. Bhardwaj, Addl. A.G., Haryana.

Mr. Sanjiv Ghai, Advocate
for respondent No.5.

Mr. Viraj Gandhi, Advocate
and Mr. Adarsh Dubey, Advocate
for respondent No.6.

SHEEL NAGU, C.J. (Oral)

1. The present petition, which is categorized as a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) raises the public cause of there being no particular Policy, Rules or Regulation for enabling the customers to know as

to which product, sold in the market contains vegetarian or non-vegetarian ingredients.

2. The petitioner prays for the following substantive reliefs:-

"ii) to issue a writ in the nature of Mandamus directing the respondents to protect the rights of innocent citizens of India and consumers who object to the consumption and use of animals or its derivatives in food cosmetics, 1 of 3 Neutral Citation No:=2024:PHHC:146414-DB drugs etc. and that their rights to disclosure/known in the making of the various kinds of such products by the manufacturers /packers;

iii) to declare that the consumers have a right to informed choice between products made or derived from animal and non-animal ingredients;

iv) to direct the manufacturers/packers of food or cosmetics or drugs to declare the percent of non-veg or veg;

v) to direct the manufacturers/packers of food or cosmetics or drugs to declare the ingredients made or derived the name of animal from whom and that such products shall have an easily identifiable symbol indicating that it has an animal ingredient;

vi) to direct the respondents to coordinate inter se to ensure that these rules/regulations /bye-laws/orders etc. may kindly be ordered to be implemented in the law and spirit;

vii) to issue any other appropriate writ, order or direction as this Hon'ble Court may deem fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the present case;"

3. During the course of arguments, it has been pointed out by learned counsel for respondent No.6-FSSAI that Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020, have been framed by invoking the relevant provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (in short '2006 Act'), which provide in detail, various precautions to be taken by manufacturer with respect to labelling; inter alia mentioning the nature and number of the ingredients contained in the food product, sold in the market.

4. The said Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020, are placed on record as Annexure 'H'.

5. After having gone through the said Regulations, including the penal provisions prescribed by 2006 Act, this Court is satisfied that the grievance of the petitioner, who has raised a genuine public cause, has since been ameliorated.

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6. For the time being, the grievance having been satisfied, this Court does not deem it appropriate to continue with the present petition and disposes of the same while giving liberty to the petitioner to re-visit the Court in case the grievance remains unredressed after availing the remedy under 2006 Act and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder.

7. With the aforesaid liberty, the present petition stands disposed of.

(SHEEL NAGU)
CHIEF JUSTICE

(ANIL KSHETARPAL)

JUDGE

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November 11 , 2024
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Whether speaking/reasoned
Whether reportable

Yes/No
Yes/No

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