



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

SUO MOTU WRIT PETITION NO. 1 OF 2023

High Court on its own motion

**CORAM: S. V. GANGAPURWALA, ACTING CJ. &
SANDEEP V. MARNE, J.**

DATE: MARCH 8, 2023

P.C.:

1. A disturbing article in the daily newspaper "The Hindu" dated 8th March, 2023 has been brought to our notice under the heading "Sugar-belt shocker. The financial and sexual abuse of Maharashtra's migrant workforce". The article deals with the plight of the migrant workers from the drought affected area of Marathwada Region, wherein they are required to migrate to western Maharashtra's Sangli, Kolhapur, Pune, Satara, Solapur and Ahmednagar, known as the sugar belt.

2. It is narrated that about 70% of 500-odd villages in Beed, Osmanabad, Jalna, Latur and some parts of Nanded and Parbhani districts are emptied every winter. The tolis, groups of workers, either stay on the sugar factory premises or in the sugarcane fields. Families move into temporary structures that provide little shelter as winter turns to summer and then the rains arrive, flooding their makeshift homes. The plight of these workers is narrated qua financial exploitation and exploitation of lady workers also. The workers have also narrated the ordeals they have to undergo. The statements of such migrant workers are also part of the said article.

3. We take *suo motu* cognizance of the same. We appoint and request Shri. Mihir Desai, learned senior advocate and Ms. Pradnya Talekar, learned advocate, to assist the Court. Ms. Talekar may prepare proper petition.

(SANDEEP V. MARNE, J.)

(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE)

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