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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ **W.P.(C) 13436/2022 & CM APPL. 59580/2023**

SOCIAL JURIST, A CIVIL RIGHTS GROUP Petitioner

Through: Mr. Ashok Aggarwal with Ms. Ashna Khare, Mr. Kumar Utkarsh and Mr. Manoj Kumar, Advocates.

versus

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI Respondent

Through: Mr. Santosh Kumar Tripathi, Standing Counsel for GNCTD with Mr. Arun Panwar, Mr. Pradyumn Rao, Mr. Utkarsh Singh, Mr. Kartik Sharma, Ms. Prashnsa Sharma and Mr. Rishabh Srivastava, Advocates.

CORAM:
HON'BLE THE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE MINI PUSHKARNA

ORDER
21.12.2023

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1. Learned standing counsel for Government of NCT of Delhi has handed over a copy of the status report. As per the said status report, a new school building at Sri Ram Colony, Khajoori Chowk is almost ready for possession latest by 31st January, 2024. It is stated that students with nearby residential addresses will be shifted to the new building at Sri Ram Colony after the same is completed.
2. On 20th November, 2023 this Court had noted the submission of the



petitioner that North East-I District has high strength of 1,45,909 students in just forty eight schools running in twenty five school buildings. The student enrolment is quite high in comparison to the infrastructure and school buildings, especially the schools situated in the areas of Khajoori Khas, Tukhmipur, Sonia Vihar, Sabhapur and Karawal Nagar. Thus, the students are forced to study in schools offering only two hours of education per day or alternate day school in North East-I District.

3. The present petition raises a very pertinent issue with regard to students studying in schools run by Government of NCT of Delhi in North East-I District areas that are following pattern of teaching mechanism of either imparting only two hours of daily education or teaching on alternate days thereby affecting education of more than one lakh students. The petition highlights that schools like Sarvodya Kanya Vidyalaya at Khajoori Khas and Sarvodya Bal Vidyalaya at Khajoori Khas are imparting only two hours of education to students. Whereas, students of Government Girls Senior Secondary School at Khajoori Khas and Sabhapur as well as students of Government Boys Senior Secondary School at Khajoori Khas and Sabhapur are called only on alternate days in school for education.

4. It is further pointed out that many other schools at Tukbirpur, Sonia Vihar, Karawal Nagar, etc. are following the same pattern of teaching mechanism i.e. either imparting only two hours of daily education or alternate days.

5. This is an alarming situation as young children are deprived of proper education due to lack of proper infrastructure and facilities. This Court cannot tolerate such a state of affairs where young children belonging to underprivileged category, who are the future of our society are prevented



from having proper formal education.

6. The affidavit filed by the Delhi Government hardly inspires confidence. In view thereof, directions are issued to the Delhi Government to file a detailed affidavit clearly specifying the number of students studying in the schools situated at North East-I District, with Class-wise breakup in order to show the strength of children in each Class. The Delhi Government shall specifically outline as to how it intends to adjust the students studying in the schools in the aforementioned District to other schools wherein they can be imparted full time formal education like in other schools run by the Delhi Government. The affidavit of the Delhi Government shall indicate in clear terms as to the number of students that shall be adjusted from each school in the North East-I District to other schools, clearly detailing the schools to which such students will be adjusted.

7. The Delhi Government is also directed to indicate in its affidavit whether adequate teachers are available for imparting education to the said children in the new schools where they are sought to be adjusted. The number of Classrooms and teachers available in the schools where the students from North East-I District are sought to be adjusted, shall be clearly indicated by the Delhi Government.

8. The needful be done by the Delhi Government within three weeks.

9. List on 19th February, 2024.

ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE

MINI PUSHKARNA, J

DECEMBER 21, 2023/ak