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19.05.
2020

Through Video Conference

W. P. No. 5413 (W) of 2020

Kabir Shankar Bose

Vs

State of West Bengal & Others

Mr. Dhiraj Trivedi, Sr. Advocate,
Mr. Brajesh Jha ...for the Petitioner.

Mr. Y. J. Dastoor, Sr. Advocate,
Mr. Vipul Kundalia,
Mr. Rajeshree Kundalia
...for the Union of India.

Mr. Kishore Dutta, Ld. AG,
Mr. Sayan Sinha ...for the State.

The writ petitioner ventilates grievance regarding alleged mismanagement of the COVID-19 situation in the State of West Bengal by the State Administration.

Mr. Dastoor, learned Senior Advocate appearing for the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India submits that a team from the said Ministry is prepared to visit West Bengal, inspect the situation and file a report before this Court.

Learned Advocate General appearing for the State submits that earlier a Central Team had visited the State and had spent several weeks inspecting various areas. Sufficient materials were gathered by that team. Hence, no further visit by any Central Team is necessary. Any further visit by a Central Team would, in effect, be a roving enquiry only to find fault with the State Administration, if possible.

In response, Mr. Dastoor submitted that the earlier Central Team was an inter-ministerial team. However, now it will be a team consisting of members from the Ministry of Home Affairs only.

Since the Ministry of Home Affairs offers to file a report in response to the averments made in the writ petition, let such report be filed on or before the next date of hearing.

The State Government shall also file a report in response to the averments made in the writ petition.

We clarify that if any team from the Ministry of Home Affairs visits this State, the same shall be on its own volition and not pursuant to any order of this Court.

Let this matter appear on 26.05.2020.

(Thottathil B. Radhakrishnan, C.J.)

(Arijit Banerjee, J.)