

Tangkhul Katamnao Saklong (Tangkhul Students Union) Oking Ukhul and Others Vs State of Manipur and Others

Court: Gauhati High Court (Imphal Bench)

Date of Decision: July 13, 1998

Acts Referred: Constitution of India, 1950 " Article 226, 29, 30

Citation: (1999) 2 GLT 426

Hon'ble Judges: N.S. Singh, J

Bench: Single Bench

Advocate: R. Daniel and Ashang, for the Appellant; Ch. Bidyamani Devi, G.A., for the Respondent

Judgement

N.S. Singh, J.

Heard Mr. Ashang, learned Counsel for the Petitioner, namely, the Tangkhul Katamnao Saklong Oking Ukhul and also

heard Ms. Ch. Bidyamani Devi, learned Government Advocate for the State Respondents.

2. In this writ petition the Petitioner made a reasonable prayer for a direction to the appropriate authority, particularly the present state

Respondents to construct the Ukhul Higher Secondary School building and to complete it within a stipulated time by contending, inter alia, that the

said school was dismantled in the month of October, 1995 and no new school building is yet to be constructed or erected till today without any

justification. This Court by an order dated 9.6.98 made a query on the following points:

1. Is it correct that Ukhul Higher Secondary School building was dismantled in Oct. 1995 ? ..

2. If so, whether a new building has been erected in place of the old one ?

3. If not, where classes are held as on this date ? and

4. The factual position/condition of the school as regards accommodation should be clearly stated in the report.

3. In pursuance to the said order of this Court, the Zonal Education Officer(ZEO) Ukhul, Govt. of Manipur submitted a report to the Secretary

Education Govt. of Manipur and Director, of Education (S), Govt. of Manipur under his office letter No. 1/135/93-ZEO(UKL) dated 20th June,

1998 a copy of which is being placed by Ms. Bidyamani Devi, learned Govt. Advocate today before this Court highlighting the fact that the school

building of Ukhul Hr. Section School building was dismantled in December, 1995 and there is no school building at the moment and the classes

are running at Boy's hostel, Ukhrul Hr. Section School, and the School has been facing a bad condition and it has not enough rooms to

accommodate the number of students enrolled every year. The Z.E.O. makes a reference to a letter dated 29.5.96 issued by the Principal X Jkhrul

Hr. Sec School, a copy of which is also being produced by the learned Govt. Advocate. To meet the ends of justice I hereby form these two

related office letters dt. 20.6.98 and 29.5.96 as part of the record and marked as "X" and "Y" for identification.

4. By virtue of the Fortysecond Amendment of the Constitution of India. The "education" including technical education, mechanical education and

Universities, subject to the provisions of Entries 63,64,65 and 66 of List-I: vocational and technical training of $\frac{1}{2}$ labour has been included in

List-III, concurrent list of the Constitution. As per related provisions of law laid down under Articles 29 and 30 of the Constitution of India a

protection has been made in the interest of the minority and the right of the minority to establish and administer educational institution. Apart from it,

every citizen of India has a legitimate right to have an educational facilities in any institution which is the enshrined principle of the Constitution and

the same cannot be denied by any authority whatsoever high. In the instant case the school is running in a precarious condition and there is no

enough rooms to accommodate the number of students enrolled every year as reflected in the aforementioned office letters marked as "X" and "Y"

dated 20.6.98 and 29.5.96. Right from the year, 1996 the school authority had been urging to the Govt. for providing the school building of the

said Ukhrul Hr. Section School, but the State Respondents had not paid heed to till today without any justification and rather the state

Respondents have failed to perform their lawful duties conferred upon them by law of the land At this stage I hereby recalled a case Comptroller

and Auditor-general of India, Gian Prakash, New Delhi and Another Vs. K.S. Jagannathan and Another, In that case the Apex Court held thus:

Art. 226 is designedly couched in a wide language in order not to confine the power conferred by it on the High Courts only to the power to issue

prerogative writs as understood in England. The High Courts exercising jurisdiction under Article 226 can issue "directions, orders or writs" so as

to enable the . High Courts to reach injustice wherever it is found and to mould the reliefs to meet the peculiar and complicated requirements of this

country. The High Courts have the power to issue a writ of mandamus or a writ in the nature of mandamus or to pass orders and give necessary

directions where the government or a public authority has failed to exercise or has wrongly exercised the discretion conferred upon it by a statute

or a rule or a policy decision of the Govt, or has exercised such discretion mala fide or on irrelevant considerations or by ignoring the relevant

considerations and materials or in such a manner as to frustrate the object of conferring such discretion or the policy for implementing which such

discretion has been conferred. In all such cases and in any other fit and proper case a High Court can compel the performance in a proper and

lawful manner of the discretion conferred upon the Govt, or a public authority, and in a proper case, in order to prevent injustice resulting to the

concerned parties, the Court may itself pass an order or give directions which the government or the public authority should have passed or given

had it properly and lawfully exercised its discretion.

5. Applying this established principle of law of the land, I direct the State Respondents to perform their lawful duties, thus constructing the school

building of the Hr. Secondary School at Ukhurul within a period of 6 (six) months from the date of receipt of this judgment and order. So that the

students and public at large shall not suffer and the career of the students shall be protected by the State machinery.

6. For the reasons, observation and direction made above this writ petition is disposed of.

7. As this Court required the assistance of the learned Advocate General this Court invited the learned Advocate General in the matter and

informed the learned Advocate General about the existence of this judgment and order.