

**Court No. - 10**

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**Case :- P.I.L. CIVIL No. - 19598 of 2021**

**Petitioner :- Vishnu Kumar Srivastava (Petitioner In person)**

**Respondent :- State Of U.P.Thru Addl.Chief Secy. Information Lko & Ors.**

**Counsel for Petitioner :- In Person**

**Counsel for Respondent :- C.S.C.**

**Hon'ble Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya,J.**

**Hon'ble Abdul Moin,J.**

Heard Shri Vishnu Kumar Srivastava, in person in support of this petition and Shri Amitabh Rai, learned Additional Chief Standing Counsel representing the State-respondents.

This Public Interest Litigation has been filed with the following prayers:

*"(i) Issue a writ, order or direction or an appropriate writ commanding the State Authorities to frame guidelines to come out with their specific stand whether such publications are permissible where the credentials of originator of new items/articles prima-facie under scrutiny which influences the public in general to believe his covered stories based on his ulterior motives and accordingly issue appropriate directions to the Authorities or the same may kindly be issued by this Hon'ble Court, in the interest of public at large;*

*(ii) Issue a writ, order or direction in the nature of mandamus commanding the respondents to constitute an independent committee/legal body of press and publication for scrutinize the credentials of originator of new items/article prior to publication of the news items in order to maintain credibility/authenticity of the press/media in order to build the public trust in democratic system.*

*(iii) Issue a writ, order or direction in the nature of mandamus commanding the respondents to identify the frivolous and un-genuine magazine/news-papers, media channels and journalist and take appropriate legal action against them, within the time so stipulated by this Hon'ble Court.*

*(iv) Issue a writ, order or direction in the nature of Mandamus commanding the respondents not to permit such publications which are not having credentials of being published and being circulated under valid authority issued under the verified*

licenses issued by the respondents in accordance with law in any manner."

In sum and substance, the prayers made in this writ petition are to the effect that appropriate direction be issued to the State authorities for framing guidelines to regulate various news media so that the tendency to spread fake, fabricated and orchestrated news, may be curbed.

What we find is that the prayers made in this petition primarily lie in realm of policy and the petitioner has thus sought a direction to the State to frame/come out with a policy to check such disturbing trend in media.

While we do not intend in any manner to minimize the need of curbing such menace which is causing more harm to the society, we are also conscious of the fact that the matter exclusively lies in the policy making arena, which in our considered opinion is not the preserve of the Court. At this juncture, we have been informed that the broader issue raised in this petition is already engaging attention of Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Writ Petition (Civil) No.787 of 2020; Jamiat Ulama I Hind & another vs. Union of India and another*.

Accordingly, having regard to the nature of prayers made in this petition and also considering the fact that Hon'ble Supreme Court is already seized of such matter, we are not inclined to entertain this writ petition, which is hereby **dismissed**.

**Order Date :- 6.9.2021**

akhilesh/