

**WP No.13289 of 2021**

**THE HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE**  
**and**  
**P.D.AUDIKESAVALU, J.**

(Order of the Court was made by the Hon'ble Chief Justice)

Though two reports have been filed, one on October 1, 2021 and the other on October 4, 2021, it does not appear that the wandering mentally ill have been vaccinated to the extent expected or even desirable.

2. The later report indicates that 396 wandering mentally ill persons have been rescued and admitted in rehabilitation homes by the State and such persons may have also been vaccinated. The vaccination status in residential homes for persons with disabilities has also been disclosed in the second report, but the same may not be material for the present purpose. What is of importance is that, according to the State, there may be only 396 wandering mentally ill persons in the State, while the petitioner suggests that there could be as many in this city alone though the number of mentally ill persons attributed to Chennai in the second report is zero.

3. One of the suggestions made by the petitioner is to create zones out of large Corporation areas or Municipal Corporation areas with a volunteer in each zone to report on any wandering mentally ill person in such zone. In such regard, it is submitted that Chennai city may be divided into 16 zones and a private volunteer attached to any NGO may be allotted each of the zones for such person to report the sighting of any wandering mentally ill person for immediate appropriate rescue and recovery operations to be undertaken.

4. It is also evident that the steps necessary to be taken require considerable expenditure. There is a Government Care Camp at Melpakkam that has been referred to on previous occasion by the petitioner and which is now referred to at paragraph 4 of the later of the two reports filed today. The State indicates that such camp at Melpakkam was started by the State Government, in order to eliminate beggary and to rehabilitate beggars under the Tamil Nadu Beggary Prevention Act XIII of 1945. The home was apparently established in 1954 and is now highly dilapidated. The State should make every endeavour to renovate and restore the home and even invest in new construction in the open area so that the wandering mentally ill persons can be put up at such site.

5. A further report should be filed indicating the total number of mentally ill persons who are not cared for in the State or who may be wandering and the extent to which such persons have been vaccinated. Such report be filed when the matter appears next, a week after the vacation.

6. In the meantime, advocate for the petitioner may meet the officials of the appropriate department if a meeting in such regard is organised under the aegis of learned Advocate-General or even without learned Advocate-General being present for the purpose of formulating a plan of action generally, for the mentally ill persons across the State and, particularly, how to vaccinate all such persons.

7. List on 26.10.2021.

सत्यमेव जयते

(S.B., CJ.) (P.D.A., J.)

05.10.2021

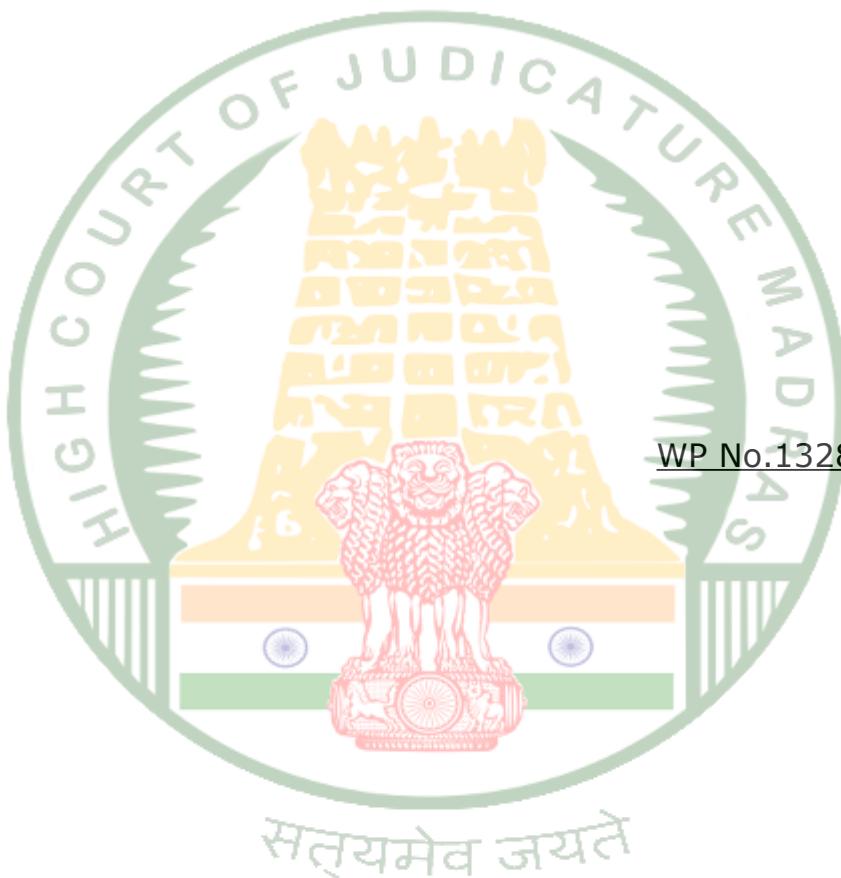
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