

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

W.P.(C) No. 16216 of 2019

Odisha State Legal Services Authority* *Petitioner

Mr. Gautam Misra, Senior Advocate (Amicus Curiae)

-versus-

State of Odisha and others* *Opposite Parties

Mr. Bibhu Prasad Tripathy
Additional Government Advocate

**CORAM:
THE CHIEF JUSTICE
JUSTICE G. SATAPATHY**

Order No.

**ORDER
01.05.2023**

20. 1. The Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department, Government of Odisha has filed an affidavit in terms of the order dated 18th April, 2023 passed by this Court. A copy of the said affidavit, which was handed over in Court today, has been provided to the learned Amicus Curiae (AC) who points out that while the affidavit states that social audit has been conducted in 6773 Gram Panchayats (GPs) of 30 districts for the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and 1298 GPs for the Fair Price Shops (FPS) Schemes in 2021-2022 and 1759 GPs for the said Scheme in 2022-23, the findings in the said audit and the corrective action taken on such findings, if any, are not set out in the affidavit.

2. That apart, it is pointed out by the learned AC that the correspondence enclosed with the affidavit only refers to social audit being conducted in respect of the TPDS and FPS under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and not the ICDS and Mamata Schemes. As regards the Mid-day-Meal (MDM) Scheme, the affidavit says that no authorization has been given by the School & Mass Education Department (S&ME Department).

3. Mr. Bibhu Prasad Tripathy, learned Additional Government Advocate assures the Court that the affidavits of the S&ME Department and the Women and Child Development (W&CD) Department will be filed positively one week prior to the next date with advance copies to the learned AC.

4. The Court would like to reiterate what it has already stated in its order dated 20th December, 2022, viz., that the social audit entrusted to the Odisha Society for Social Audit Accountability and Transparency (OSSAAT) under the Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Department, has to be undertaken of all the four Schemes, i.e., the TPDS, the MDM Scheme, the ICDS and the Maternity Benefit Program/Mamata Scheme

5. The Court expects that the affidavits of the S&ME Department and the W&CD Department to provide details of the social audit of the above three schemes which fall within their respective jurisdiction.

6. The Court would like the OSSAAT to place before the Court the actual findings of the social audits in respect of all the four schemes and the corrective action, if any, taken in that regard.

7. List on 11th July, 2023.

(Dr. S. Muralidhar)
Chief Justice

(G. Satapathy)
Judge

S. Behera

