

**BEFORE  
THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE UMA NATH SINGH, CHIEF JUSTICE  
HON'BLE MR JUSTICE T NANDAKUMAR SINGH  
& HON'BLE MR JUSTICE S R SEN**

**23.07.2015**

Mr. AK Singh and Mr. Pradeep Rai, learned Amicus Curiae, appear for the petitioners.

Mr. K.S. Kynjing, learned Advocate General, assisted by Ms. Y. Shylla, learned GA, represents the State respondent.

Mr. A.K. Singh, and Mr. Pradeep Rai, learned senior counsel, and Amicus Curiae in the matter, pointed out various deficiencies on the part of the State Government in providing infrastructure for the Subordinate Courts as also in making provision for Annexe Building of the High Court. At this stage, learned Advocate General, Mr. K.S. Kynjing prays for further time to submit the latest status report. During the course of hearing, it was also brought to the notice of the Court that one Judicial Officer namely, Shri. F.S. Sangma, presently posted as Chief Judicial Magistrate, West Khasi Hills District at Nongstoin, has been occupying 2 (two) accommodation right since his posting at Shillong. We direct the Judicial Officer to vacate the State accommodation at Shillong forthwith within a week, and also grant liberty to the State Government to recover the rent for the additional accommodation by following the procedure as required under the law. As per request of learned Advocate General, we list the matter on 25.08.2015.

**JUDGE**

**JUDGE**

**CHIEF JUSTICE**

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23.07.2015

Towards the last order dated 16.07.2015, the Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Mr PBO Warjri; Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya, Mr PK Srivastava; Addl. Director General of Police, Meghalaya, Mr BR Rana; Chief Engineer, PWD, Mr M Passah; Deputy Commissioner, Ri-Bhoi District, Nongpoh, Mrs Pooja Pandey and Station In-charge, Shillong Airport, Mr PS Gangopadhyay, are present in Court today.

From the statements made before the Court, it appears that all are ready to cooperate with the progress of the project namely expansion of Shillong Airport. According to Mr PK Srivastava there is some communication gap which can be settled in a joint meeting within a week. The Airport Authority of India also undertakes to provide additional land required for widening of the road upto 20 feet. Mr Warjri states that a senior officer of the Secretary rank shall be nominated as the Nodal Officer to coordinate the meetings and for filing affidavit on behalf of different departments of the State Government required to be involved in the exercise.

Mrs Pooja Pandey, Deputy Commissioner, Ri-bhoi District, Nongpoh states that the lands which are to be exchanged with the Defence have already been identified and a joint inspection has also been carried out. Mr K Lhouvum, Defence Estate Officer, Guwahati, representing the Ministry of Defence states that the Defence is ready to part with 32 acres of land for expansion of Umroi Airport, but a proposal as to the total requirement of lands and as to lands of equal value to be

given in exchange has to come from the State Government. He also assures on behalf of the Defence to extend all the cooperation required to complete the project of expansion of Shillong Airport. In view of the fact that Mrs Pooja Pandey, Deputy Commissioner, Ri-bhoi District has already made a statement showing readiness for the exchange of lands, we do not see any difficulty on that count.

The very fact that there is a great public interest and urgency involved in the matter, for, the project is lying idle even after investment of huge public money spent by the State Government as well as the Airport Authority of India, for the past about 50 years, we have to step in, by way suo moto cognizance. That is why we would also like to know the views of the Chief of Army Staff and the Defence Secretary, on the impending issue of exchange of Defence lands with the contiguous lands which can be acquired by the State only upon getting the willingness of Defence. We may also say that the expansion of Shillong Airport would not only be in the interest of the local natives civil administration, national and international tourism, but would also cater to facilitate the air services for the Defence.

It also needs to be highlighted that the Airport Authority of India has already procured the Instrument Landing System for Shillong (Umroi Airport) at the cost of Rs. 2.11 crores which is lying non-functional at Guwahati Airport, on account of dearth of space required to make it operational.

List on 05.08.2015. Let this order be issued to the authorities concerned by Fax apart from usual mode followed for issuance of certified copies.

**JUDGE**

**JUDGE**

**CHIEF JUSTICE**

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