

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI
W.P. (PIL) No. 3498 of 2021**

Court on its own motion

Versus

State of Jharkhand and Others Respondents

**CORAM : HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SUJIT NARAYAN PRASAD**

For the State : Mr. Rajiv Ranjan, Advocate General
Mr. Sachin Kumar, A.A.G.-II

Oral Order
03/ Dated 16.09.2021

Heard Mr. Rajiv Ranjan, learned Advocate General and Mr. Sachin Kumar, learned A.A.G.-II appearing on behalf of the State.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Jharkhand; Chief, Wild Life Warden, Government of Jharkhand and Divisional Forest Officer of the concerned Division are present through video conferencing mode. However, the Secretary, Forest & Environment, Government of Jharkhand is not present.

They are not in a position to give the exact data about the various animals population in the forest (Reserved Forest, National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuary) in the State of Jharkhand.

Let such data be provided on affidavit on the next date of hearing. Apart from the above. Let the data about the yearly death of elephants in the State of Jharkhand for the last five years be also supplied alongwith the details as to in how many cases post-mortem was done, in how many cases viscera was preserved and how many cases were sent for such forensic examination and in how many cases such forensic examination reports were received or not received.

Now, coming to the larger issue, we would direct the Secretary, Forest & Environment, Government of Jharkhand to have a meeting with all

the responsible officers of the Forest & Environment Department and to chalk out a plan for reclaiming the wildlife animals (*fauna*) in the Jungle. It is known to everybody that various wildlife animals were available in the Jungles of the erstwhile State of Bihar, out of which the State of Jharkhand has been carved out but slowly and gradually their numbers have diminished. What is the present position could only be known after the affidavit comes on behalf of the State in that regard. However, an effort to bring back the wildlife animals should be seriously made by the State.

Let such affidavit be filed on or before the next date of hearing.

One affidavit should also be filed by the Secretary, Forest & Environment, Government of Jharkhand and another by the Chief, Wildlife Warden, Government of Jharkhand.

Put up this case on 30.09.2021.

(Dr. Ravi Ranjan, C.J.)

(Sujit Narayan Prasad, J.)