

HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA
AT SHILLONG

PIL No.7/2024

Date of Order : 25.06.2025

Phuyosa Yobin

Vs

State of Meghalaya & anr

Coram:

Hon'ble Mr. Justice I.P. Mukerji, Chief Justice

Hon'ble Mr. Justice W. Diengdoh, Judge

Appearance:

For the Petitioner

: Mr. A. Dkhar, Adv

For the Respondents

: Mr. J.N. Rynjah, GA

Ms. S. Laloo, GA

Mr. Philemon Nongbri, Adv for R/2

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| i) | Whether approved for reporting in Law journals etc.: | Yes/No |
| ii) | Whether approved for publication in press: | Yes |

Note: For proper public information and transparency, any media reporting this judgment is directed to mention the composition of the bench by name of judges, while reporting this judgment/order.

This public interest litigation (PIL) was admitted and entertained in August, 2024 by the bench presided over by the then Chief Justice Mr. Justice S. Vaidyanathan. It was of the view that although for a very long-time, plastic was being used for storage of materials, its negative qualities were so significant that time had come to totally ban its use. It directed the State to take measures in that direction, by its order dated 16th August, 2024.

In terms of the said order, a report dated 11th March, 2025 had been filed by the respondents which we considered on 14th May, 2025. We observed that action in terms of the order dated 16th August, 2024 had only been taken in a major portion of East Khasi Hills District and not in others. We passed a detailed order directing the Deputy Commissioner heading a district to carry out awareness camps, make public announcement of the health hazards of the use of plastic and for taking steps that single-use plastic items of less than 120 microns were not manufactured in the State, brought into the State from outside or sold here in any manner, make extensive inspection to discover any clandestine use of banned plastic and for taking steps against offenders.

Today, learned counsel for the State respondent has filed a report stating compliance with our order dated 14th May, 2025. The report specifies district-wise compliance in 11 districts except East Jaintia Hills. Learned counsel for the State respondent is directed to file a compliance report by the authorities of East Jaintia Hills before the next date of hearing of this PIL.

We have perused the report.

We are quite satisfied with the steps taken. We note that the District Magistrate, East Khasi Hills District had issued a “prohibitory order banning the sale and use of plastic carry bags of less than 120 microns from

June, 2025”. We find that a similar prohibitory order had been issued by the District Magistrate, South Garo Hills, Baghmara. It appears from the submission of learned counsel for the State respondent that similar prohibitory orders have been issued in all the districts covered by the report. Moreover, awareness camps, monitoring the use of plastic and appropriate measures against wrongdoers seem to have been initiated. The action taken seems to be at the initial stage. The prohibitory orders need to be strictly implemented. We direct that comprehensive action should be taken to enforce the orders of this Court dated 16th August, 2024 read with the subsequent orders, the last of which was made in 14th May, 2025 and the administrative measures adopted by the government.

The State respondent is directed to file a supplementary action taken report on the next date of hearing of this PIL.

List this PIL for further consideration on 12th August, 2025.

A copy of the report is to be served upon the Advocate-on-Record for the petitioner.

(W. Diengdoh)
Judge

(I.P. Mukerji)
Chief Justice

Meghalaya
25.06.2025
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