

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI

W.P.(PIL) No. 6062 of 2025

Court on its Own Motion

Versus

The State of Jharkhand & Ors. Respondents

With

W.P.(PIL) No. 2971 of 2020

Arun Kumar Singh Petitioner

Versus

The State of Jharkhand & Ors. Respondents

With

W.P.(PIL) No. 2413 of 2021

Life Savers Ranchi, through its founding member, Atul Gera
... .. Petitioner

Versus

The State of Jharkhand & Ors. Respondents

With

W.P.(PIL) No. 4688 of 2025

Court on its Own Motion

Versus

The State of Jharkhand & Ors. Respondents

CORAM

HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJESH SHANKAR

For the Petitioner:	Mrs. Khusboo Kataruka, Amicus Curiae Mr. Shubham Kataruka, Advocate Mr. Atul Gera, In Person
For the State:	Mr. Gaurav Raj, A.C. to A.A.G.-II
For the RIMS:	Dr. A.K. Singh, Advocate
For the Intervenors:	Md. Shadab Ansari, Advocate

07/18.12.2025

I.A. No. 17004 of 2025 [W.P. (PIL) No. 6062 of 2025]

1. Learned counsel for the applicants seeks permission to withdraw this application with liberty to the applicants to file a substantive writ petition.
2. Prayer is allowed.
3. The present interlocutory application is accordingly disposed of as withdrawn with the aforesaid liberty.

W.P. (PIL) Nos. 6062 of 2025, 2971 of 2020, 2413 of 2021 & 4688 of 2025:

4. Heard.
5. Though this Court is seized of this matter for last more than four years in W.P. (PIL) No. 2413 of 2021, however, we have no hesitation in observing that the respondent-authorities have failed to implement the Objective 8.5 of the National Blood Policy with respect to replacement free blood transfusion in the State of Jharkhand. The said decision has been reaffirmed by the State Blood Transfusion Council (SBTC) in its various meetings particularly dated 14.09.2017, 15.01.2018, 03.04.2018, 09.03.2018 & 31.10.2025.
6. Besides this, even Clause 2.1 of the Transfusion Guidelines, which categorically stipulates that relatives of patients should not be asked to arrange donors or blood, has not been followed till date as it is only the relative of the patients, who is asked to arrange donors or blood. The private hospitals/blood banks have not adhered to the condition of organizing voluntary blood donation camps to cater to their respective demands and to provide safe blood to the patients. Even the directions as stipulated in letters dated 24.08.2018, 20.11.2018 & 16.04.2019 issued by the Secretary, Department of Health and the Chief Medical Officer-cum-Civil Surgeon, Ranchi have fallen on deaf ears.
7. Even in the counter affidavit dated 13.11.2025, the respondent-State has furnished data with respect to number of blood donation camps organized by the private entities over last three months (July, 2025 to September, 2025), which goes to indicate that only 13% of the total blood collection in the month of July, 2025 was secured through voluntary blood donation, which marginally increased to 15-22% in August, 2025 and 25% in September, 2025.
8. In the counter affidavit filed by the respondent-State on 16.12.2025, it has been stated that 15% of the blood collection is made through

voluntary means. That apart, the respondents have furnished the reports of Day Care Centres from 9 districts of the State of Jharkhand in its counter affidavit dated 14.10.2025, which suggest that

- (i) essential drugs such as Iron Chelators and Hydroxyurea are not available.
- (ii) no data has been furnished with respect to availability of packed red blood cells.
- (iii) data also does not specify that the medical practitioners deputed in the said Day Care Centres are trained to treat the patients of Thalassemia and Sick Cells Anaemia.

9. If this was not enough, the respondents also failed to comply with the order dated 26.02.2018 passed in W.P. (PIL) No. 3700 of 2015, whereby the respondent-State had though made submission that Blood Component Separation Units (BCSUs) would be established in every district during 2018-19, however, till date no such unit has been established in the State of Jharkhand.

10. What compounds the issue further is that the toll-free helpline number provided by the respondent-State i.e. 104 does not have any provision to register the grievances or to provide any real-time assistance for arrangement of blood to the patients in need.

11. There is lack of manpower in blood banks as is evident from paragraph no. 16 of the supplementary counter affidavit dated 16.12.2025. There is absolute lack of manpower in all the blood centres in the entire State of Jharkhand. In all the blood banks, only one Medical Officer is deputed in violation of the recommendations made by the Expert Working Group, which provide as under:-

Staff Requirement	Annual Blood Collection (Units)				
	Upto 5000	Upto 10000	Upto 20000	>20000	>50000
Medical Officer In Charge/Medical Personnel	2	3	5	7	8
Counsellor/Medical Social Worker	1	2	2	2	4
Registered Nurse	1	2	3	4	8
Blood Centre Technician	5	8	11	13	22

12. Lastly and more importantly, even regular inspection of blood banks is not carried out quarterly, which is mandatory as per the SOP made by the Department of Health, Government of Jharkhand.

13. In the given circumstances, we deem it appropriate to issue the following directions:

- (i) The respondent authorities i.e. Department of Health & State Blood Transfusion Council (SBTC) are directed to ensure that 100% collection of blood is secured by way of voluntary blood donation through blood donation drives.
- (ii) All private hospitals/blood banks are directed to conduct blood donation drives in order to meet their respective demands.
- (iii) The respondent authorities are directed to establish Blood Component Separation Units (BCSUs) in every district of the State of Jharkhand within a period of three months from today.

- (iv) The respondent authorities are directed to make all Day Care Centres fully functional in accordance with the National Health Mission Guidelines on Hemoglobinopathies in India (2016) along with the Guidelines for the National Programme for Prevention & Management of Sickle Cell Disease (2023).
- (v) The respondent authorities are directed to establish a separate dedicated grievance redressal mechanism including Mobile App, Website and Toll Free Number to provide any real-time assistance for arrangement of blood (without replacement) to the patients in need with a facility to register the grievance in this regard.
- (vi) The respondent authorities are directed to conduct inspection of all blood banks in the State of Jharkhand in every three months and to ensure availability of adequate manpower as recommended in the Report of Expert Working Group of the DGHS (Directorate General of Health Services) (F No. 18-85/2018 dated 10.01.2019).

14. For compliance to come up on 20.03.2026.

(TARLOK SINGH CHAUHAN, C.J.)

(RAJESH SHANKAR, J)

18.12.2025
Satish/Vikas/