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*Item No. 18*  
*(Through Video Conferencing)*

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR  
AT IMPHAL**

**CONT.CAS(C) No. 73 of 2020**

Ningambam Inaomacha Singh

*....Petitioner*

- Versus -

V. Vulumang & anr.

*...Respondents*

**BEFORE  
HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. SANJAY KUMAR**

29.04.2021

Mr. B. Prem Sharma, learned counsel, appears for the petitioner, and  
Mr. L. Raju, learned counsel, appears for the respondents.

This contempt case was filed alleging willful disobedience to the order dated 17.05.2019 passed by this Court in W.P. (C) No. 1066 of 2015. The said writ petition was filed by the petitioner herein, along with two others, assailing the orders passed by the Director of Health Services, Manipur, rejecting their claims for payment of wages during certain periods of time. By the order dated 17.05.2019, this Court observed that no specific direction could be given to pay wages to the petitioners unless proof of their employment on contract/temporary basis was produced. The Director of Health Services, Manipur, was accordingly directed to cause an enquiry in that regard by taking a report from the Medical Superintendent concerned. This Court further directed that, in the event their claims proved to be correct, the State would be duty bound to pay wages for the services rendered by them. This exercise was to be completed within a time frame.

Alleging willful disobedience to the aforestated order, one out of the three writ petitioners filed the present contempt case.

While so, Mr. L. Raju, learned counsel appearing for the respondents, would state that the aforestated order was duly complied with by the Director of Health Services, Manipur, as evidenced by his order dated 21.08.2020. A copy of the said order is placed on record. Perusal thereof reflects that the Director, upon holding an enquiry, opined that the writ petitioners could not produce any documents in proof of their engagement either on contract or on temporary basis. He accordingly rejected their claims as not tenable in law.

In the light of the above order dated 21.08.2020, the order passed by this Court in W.P. (C) No. 1066 of 2015 stands duly complied with, albeit with some amount of delay. However, this Court is not inclined to take a serious view of the delay, given the circumstances and the situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic over the past year.

Further, if the petitioner has any grievance with regard to the aforestated order dated 21.08.2020 of the Director of Health Services, Manipur, he would necessarily have to seek redressal thereof by way of independent proceedings in accordance with law and due procedure as the validity of the said order cannot be examined by this Court in exercise of contempt jurisdiction.

Reserving liberty to the petitioner to do so, if he so chooses, this contempt case is dismissed.

**CHIEF JUSTICE**