

**HIGH COURT OF TRIPURA
AGARTALA**

WP(C)(PIL) No.03/2024

Court on its own motion
V E R S U S

The Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare & others

.....Respondent(s).

For Court on its own motion : Mr. Sankar Lodh, Amicus Curiae,
Ms. Aradhita Debbarma, Amicus Curiae.

For Respondent(s) : Mr. S.M. Chakraborty, Advocate General,
Mr. Bidyut Majumder, Dy. S.G.I.,
Mr. Kohinoor N Bhattacharyya, G.A.,
Ms. P. Chakraborty, Advocate.

**HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. APARESH KUMAR SINGH
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE BISWAJIT PALIT**

Order

09/01/2025

Dr. Chinmoyee Das, Public Health Specialist, Grade-I, National Aids Control Organization (NACO, for short) and Dr. Samarpita Dutta, Project Director, Tripura State AIDS Control Society (TSACS, for short) have appeared through virtual mode.

Pursuant to the orders passed earlier and specifically the order dated 28.11.2024, progress has been made in the matter though no report could not be filed by the State or on behalf of NACO as there was some network error yesterday.

Dr. Chinmoyee Das, Public Health Specialist, Grade-I, NACO and Dr. Samarpita Dutta, Project Director, TSACS, and also Mr. Bidyut Majumder, learned Deputy S.G.I. and Mr. S.M. Chakraborty, learned Advocate General representing them have apprised the Court that the NACO has granted approval for establishing two new Facility-integrated ART Centres (Fi-ARTC) at

Khowai and Gomati Districts and also for one new District Monitoring Unit (to cover both Gomati and South Districts). Further SACS has been directed to seek additional budget approval under Annual Action Plan for Financial Year 2025-2026 for operationalisation of these sites.

A team from NACO including Dr. Chinmoyee Das participated in the "Multi-Stakeholder Consultation for combating Injecting Drug Use and HIV/AIDS" under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Government of Tripura on 9th and 10th December, 2024 at Agartala.

Dr. Das submits that the NACO is constantly monitoring the progress of AIDS Control work in the State in collaboration with the State AIDS Control Society. Learned Advocate General and Dr. Samarpita Dutta have also brought to the notice of this Court these facts. Apart from that, it is stated that the State AIDS Control Society has already established 24 numbers of Stand Alone Integrated Counseling & Testing Centre (SA-ICTC) and 133 numbers of Facility Integrated Counseling and Testing Centre (F-ICTC) for screening and testing services. Three numbers of PPP model ICTC Centres and one number of Mobile ICTC Van is functional in the State. 13(thirteen) numbers of Targeted intervention NGOs, 2(two) numbers of Link Worker Schemes and 4(four) Nos. of One Stop Centres are working for the High Risk Groups (HRGs). Over a period of 5/6 years TSACS has increased the number of Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) centres from 5 to 23 and another 9(nine) are approved and will be started soon. They also corroborate the approval granted for 2(two) FIARTC and Five Link ART Centres and 2(two) DISHA, i.e. District Integrated Strategy for HIV/AIDS and DAPCU (District AIDS

Prevention & Control Unit) which are working for District Level Programme implementation as per the NACO guidelines.

Let these reports be brought on record by next week.

The updated statistics as regards the incidence of HIV/AIDS patients in the State including the youth are, however, not before the Court to take stock of the situation whether the steps being taken in the last 4/5 months have led to improvement in arresting the upward trend of incidence of HIV/AIDS in the State. The TSACS shall file a progress report in that regard.

The resolution of the NCORD (National Narcotics Coordination Portal) and the action taken pursuant thereto be also brought on record.

Let the case appear on **20.02.2025**. The learned officials present virtually today would appear online on the next date also.

(BISWAJIT PALIT), J

(APARESH KUMAR SINGH), CJ

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