

ANVGJ: CrI.P.No.4726/2012 c/w CrI.P.1803/2013
03.02.2017.

ORDER

Heard learned advocates for the petitioners and Sri A.S. Ponnanna, learned Addl. Adv. General and read the orders passed earlier.

2. Analysis of 2016 report "Data on Police Organization in India" shows the national average of female police officers in the police force is 7.1%. But in Karnataka it is even lower than that i.e., around about 6%. Out of 70,934 personnel in the State, 4,354 are women and out of the 606 women police in Bengaluru, 502 are Constables. Compared to Delhi – NCR and Mumbai which have more than 6,000 and 4,000 female personnel respectively, Bengaluru has the lowest number of women personnel.

3. State of Tamil Nadu appears to be on the top of all-women police stations. Karnataka State which has

30 Districts has only 20 all-women police stations, which means not even one in each District. State of Tamil Nadu has set apart 33% reservation for women in the police force. Though it is stated that Karnataka has set apart reservation of 20%, the reality appears to be otherwise which becomes clear from the fact that out of the strength of 70,934 police personnel, the women police personnel is only 4,354, who are mostly assigned for security duties rather than the front-line responsibilities. It appears that in number of police stations / offices, there is lack of adequate facilities like rest-rooms for women police.

4. Surveys conducted have shown that presence of women in police stations makes it more comfortable to report the incidents like eve-teasing, molestation, dowry related issues, sexual harassment cases etc. for women.

5. Women constitute about 50% of the total population in the State of Karnataka. With meagre women police personnel it will be difficult to prevent the incidents

of the type reported by the media, both print and electronic, during first week of January, 2017. However, Sri A.S. Ponnanna submitted that what was reported in the media about the crimes against women on new year's eve is incorrect. According to him, there was a vast difference between what actually happened and what was reported / telecasted by the media.

6. With the reporting / telecasting, whether there is truth or otherwise, damage was done to the reputation of State of Karnataka, more particularly Bengaluru City which is called as Silicon valley. The damage done cannot be undone, even with investigations if any undertaken having proved otherwise as was stated.

7. As the number of women police in the State Police Force appear not to be enough to deal with crimes relating to women who constitute 50% of the population, State Government should come out with an action plan to enhance their number in future.

In view of the above, case stands adjourned for being listed on 03.03.2017 to furnish the data as well as the action plan by the State Government.

Copy of this order may be furnished to Sri A.S. Ponnanna, learned AAG for ensuring compliance.

(A.N. VENUGOPALA GOWDA)
JUDGE

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