

ORDER SHEET
IN THE HIGH COURT OF SINDH, KARACHI
C.P. No.D-541 of 2020

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| Date | Order with signature of Judge |
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- 1.For order on CMA No.10330/2020
- 2.For hearing of main case

15.05.2020

Petitioner is present in person.

Mr. Jawad Dero, Addl. A.G.

Mr. Kafeel Ahmed Abbasi, DAG.

Aijaz Hussain Rind, Assistant Commissioner (General),
Commissioner Office, Karachi.

Ali Hyder Arain, A.D (prices), Bureau of Supply & Prices
Department, Government of Sindh.

Muhammad Imran Shahzad, Intervener.

Aijaz Hussain, Assistant Commissioner (General) has submitted on record efforts of price checking by Deputy Commissioners from 01st to 19th Ramadan i.e. 25.04.2020 to 13.05.2020 which is taken on record. According this report, they have imposed fines under Sindh Essential Commodities Price Control & Prevention of Profiteering and Hoarding Act, 2005 with regard to various edible items such as Milk, Fruit, Vegetable, Meat, Grocery, Poultry, Bakery and others and according to this report 1368 challans have been made i.e. district South, 324, district East, 156, district West, 260, district Central, 329, district Malir, 114 and district Korangi, 185 and sum of Rs.64,25,700/- have been realized as fine. The Assistant Commissioner further undertakes that they will continue to monitor the prices and in case of any violation of the price fixed by the concerned department they will impose fine on the violation. He is directed to submit further progress report on the next date also.

Intervener Muhammad Imran Shahzad has also filed statement along with some documents. Copy has been supplied to the learned Addl. A.G. as well as to the petitioner.

The petitioner pointed out that posts of Director General/Chief, Bureau of Supply and Pricing, Government of Sindh, Secretary, Supply and Pricing Department, Government of Sindh, Additional Secretary, Supply & Pricing, Government of Sindh, Director Supply & Pricing and registration authority under Sindh Registration of Godown Act, 1995 are vacant. Learned Add. A.G. is directed to clarify with regard to these vacant posts and also apprise this court as to whether some additional charges have been given to different officers as a stopgap arrangement or not. He may also come up with definite instructions with regard to the attachment of these departments in the Rules of Business, Government of Sindh.

Ali Hyder Arain, A.D. (Pricing) Bureau of Supply and Pricing, Government of Sindh has invited our attention to a Bill of Sindh Essential Commodities Prices Control and Prevention of Profiteering and Hoarding Bill, 2016. He has also shown us the summary, whereby, worthy Chief Minister on 22.09.2016 approved the draft Bill for placing it before the Cabinet as required under Rule 45 of Sindh Rules of Business. Learned Addl. A.G. submits that by efflux of time the Bill has lapsed. He further submits that the Bill may be presented again by the concerned Secretary on which Ali Hyder Arain, A.D. (Pricing) Bureau of Supply and Pricing, Government of Sindh submits that unless D.G. is appointed the Bill cannot be moved again. Let learned Addl. A.G. make proper clarification from the concerned authority and come up with definite answers of all the queries raised in this order which is meant to make the State departments more functional and proactive to curb the menace of hoarding and profiteering in the essential commodities and to give full effect of all legislation in field.

Adjourned to 03.06.2020.

JUDGE

JUDGE

