

**HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH
AT JAMMU**

WP(C) No.865/2021
c/w
WP(C) No.784/2021
WP(C) No.905/2021
WP(C) No.949/2021
WP(C) No.1073/2021
WP(C) No.1973/2021
WP(C) No.2720/2022
WP(C) No.941/2023
WP(C) No.942/2023
WP(C) No.961/2023
WP(C) No.962/2023 &
connected CMs

Mukhtar Ahmed Choudhary and another

...Petitioner(s)

Through :- Mr. Z. A. Shah, Sr. Advocate with
Assisting counsel.
Mr. R. A. Jan, Sr. Advocate with
Assisting counsel.
Mr. Sachin Dogra, Advocate.
Mr. Javed Bhalwan, Advocate.
Mr. Dhiraj Chowdhary, Advocate.

V/s

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and
others

.....Respondent (s)

Through :- Mr. Eishaan Dadhichi, Govt. Advocate vice
Mr. Amit Gupta, Addl. AG for official
respondents.
Mr. Abhimanyu Sharma, Advocate vice
Mr. Abhinav Sharma, Sr. Advocate for private
respondents (in WP(C) Nos.784/2021 &
1073/2021).

Coram:

**HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY DHAR, JUDGE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PUNEET GUPTA, JUDGE**

**ORDER
25.04.2024**

1. On 07.03.2024, these Writ Petitions were admitted to hearing and the respondents were directed to file their counter affidavits. Post admission notice

in respect of private respondent was directed to be published jointly in all the writ petitions in the newspaper.

2. As per report of the Registry, the publication of notice in the newspaper has been undertaken, therefore, all the private respondents are deemed to have been served.
3. Mr. Abhimanyu Sharma, Advocate, appears on behalf of private respondents in WP(C) No.784/2021 & WP(C) No.1073/2021. He seeks time to file counter affidavit. Needful be done within two weeks with an advance copy to learned counsel for the petitioners, who may file rejoinder within a week's time thereafter.
4. The private respondents, who have not appeared despite publication of notice in the newspaper, are set ex parte.
5. The official respondents may file their counter affidavit within two weeks with an advance copy to learned counsels for the petitioners, who may file their rejoinder within one week thereafter. Failure on the part of any of the respondents to file counter affidavit, would lead to closure of their right to do so.
6. Registrar Judicial, Jammu/Srinagar shall take steps for constitution of appropriate Bench on next date of hearing by placing the matter before Hon'ble the Chief Justice.
7. List these matters for final hearing on 21.05.2024.

(Puneet Gupta)
Judge

(Sanjay Dhar)
Judge

JAMMU
25.04.2024
Narinder