

Order (Oral)

Court No. – 1

Case :- MISC. BENCH No. - 2685 of 2012

Petitioner :- Dr.Nutan Thakur [P.I.L. Civil]

Respondent :- Union Of India Through Principal Secy.P.M.O.Office New Delhi

Petitioner Counsel :- Dr.Nutan Thakur (In person)

Respondent Counsel :- A.S.G.

Hon'ble Uma Nath Singh, J.

Hon'ble Virendra Kumar Dixit, J.

We have heard petitioner in person and learned Assistant Solicitor General of India, Sri I.H. Farooqi, for Union of India.

The issue of movement of Army troops is not a matter of the kind which should require public discussion at the cost of defence official secrecy and the security of country. Petitioner, a social activist and freelance journalist, in her submissions expressed her grave concern over the media reportings on this subject which, if permitted to continue, may seriously interfere with the handling of security matters by Army, particularly the movements of troops from the strategic point of view in the field as well as peace areas. Thus, without interfering with the independence of media and keeping in view the fact that the news items relating to movements of troops have already engaged the attention at the highest level in the defence as well as in the Government, we think it appropriate to direct the Secretary, Home Affairs, and the Secretary, Information & Broadcasting, Government of India and the Principal Secretary (Home), Government of U.P., to ensure that there is no reporting/release of any news item by the Print as well as Electronic Media relating to the subject matter, namely, the movement of troops as contained in the accompanying annexures.

Writ petition is dismissed at this stage with aforesaid directions.

Let a copy of this order issue today to the officials concerned as well as to learned Additional Solicitor General of India/Assistant Solicitor General of India and learned Chief Standing Counsel for immediate compliance.

Order Date: - 10.4.2012

(The above-mentioned Orders of the Lucknow Bench of Hon'ble Allahabad High Court is for information and compliance by all concerned)