ITEM NO.2 COURT NO.4 SECTION XII

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Petition for Special Leave to Appeal (C) No. 1711/2018

(Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 11-12-2017 in WPMD No. 8122/2017 passed by the High Court Of Judicature At Madras At Madurai)

JULIA JACOB & ORS.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

THE DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT & ORS. Respondent(s) (With appln. for direction)

Date: 15-11-2018 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S.A. BOBDE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE L. NAGESWARA RAO

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Colin Gonsalves, Sr. Adv.

Ms. V. Mohana, Sr. Adv. Mr. M.P. Parthiban, Adv.

Mr. Ankur Prakash, AOR

For Respondent(s) Mr. M. Yogesh Kanna, AOR

Mr. Raja Rajeshwaran s., Adv.

Mr. S. Partha Sarathi, Adv.

Mr. Vikramjit Banerji, ASG

Mr. Bharat Singh, Adv.

Mr. Shekhar Vyas, Adv.

Mr. Arvind Kumar Sharma, Adv. Mr. Mukesh Kumar Maroria, AOR

For Respondent/ Applicant (s) Mr. R. Basant, Sr. Adv.

Ms. Aparna Bhat, AOR

Mr. S.M. Vivek Anandh, Adv.

Ms. Shivangi Singh, Adv.

Mr. A. Karthik, Adv.

UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

This special leave petition is filed against an interim order of the High Court by which the

Government of Tamil Nadu was directed to shift the petitioners with adequate protection from the Mose Ministries to some other Home recognized by the Government or suitable place which has adequate infrastructure/facilities and aive periodical counselling etc. The direction affects 86 young girls of varying ages from 18 to 27. They are all presently lodged in the Mose Ministry, i.e., a place where they have lived for a long time. Apparently, some problem arose because of association of one Father Gideon Jacob with the life and careers of these girls. Several litigations have been initiated by several persons and the Madras High Court is seized of them. The Madras High Court is also seized of the present litigation in which the impugned order is made.

At the request of learned counsel for the petitioners, we spoke to the girls and we find that the following order would meet the ends of justice till the High Court disposes of the writ petition:

- 1) The girls shall continue to reside at the Mose Ministry under the supervision of the staff of the District Social Welfare Officer and the Committee appointed by the High Court;
- 2) The Committee and the District Social Welfare officer shall be responsible for the well-being of

the girls;

- 3) The girls shall not directly or indirectly contact Father Gideon Jacob. If they are found to have contacted him or allowed him to contact them, they shall be shifted to any other Government Home at the discretion of the District Social Welfare officer and the Committee;
- 4) The academic certificates which have been earned by these girls shall be returned to them to enable them to seek admission in educational courses and/or employment;
- 5) The girls of marriageable age, shall be entitled to get married after giving due notice to the District Social Welfare Officer about the details of the proposed marriage, if they so desire; and
- 6) Every girl shall be entitled to go back to her parents, if she so desires, and if the parents have consented.

The special leave petition is disposed of accordingly.

Pending application stands disposed of.