



Union

Union Informs Supreme Court Sonam Wangchuk's Health Is Good, He's Receiving the Best Care

The Union Government told the Supreme Court (February 9) orally that there has been no progress in reviewing the detention of Ladakh social activist Sonam Wangchuk because he is in "perfectly good" health and receiving the best care possible at AIIMS Jodhpur, which he would not have been able to receive if he had been in Ladakh. The Court reaffirmed its concern over Wangchuk's declining health, as if dissatisfied with the response.

As you may remember, the Court is currently considering a habeas corpus petition that was submitted by Dr. Gitanjali Angmo, who wants to declare her husband Sonam Wangchuk's arrest under the National Security Act of 1980 unlawful.

Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj requested an adjournment because he is working on another subject that will be addressed after lunch, prior to a bench consisting of Justices Aravind Kumar and PB Varale rising for lunch. The matter was scheduled to be heard by the bench at 2:00 PM.

Justice Kumar verbally responded to ASG's motion by saying that the case had previously been postponed at the Union's request as well and that the Court was unable to continue last

Friday because the bench had been canceled. Justice Kumar then inquired as to whether the Court's request to reconsider Wangchuk's detention due to his declining health had advanced.

"What took place? Has anything changed? Has it been completed? Justice Kumar inquired.

The response from ASG was, "I will submit...No, nothing has been done,"

Given Wangchuk's ongoing illness, one of the petitioner's legal team's present attorneys stated that it is past time they reexamined his incarceration.

"That's what we said on the last occasion we made a suggestion," stated Justice Varale.

Given that Wangchuk had already been detained for five months, Justice Varale had requested on February 4 that Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj consult the Union Government for guidance on whether it could review the imprisonment.

This comes after Angmo's Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal recently filed an application to have Wangchuk examined by a specialized physician since he had been complaining of stomachaches on a regular basis, which may have been caused by tainted water. Doctors at AIIMS Jodhpur reportedly evaluated Wangchuk in accordance with the Court's direction, and a report was turned in to the Court.

Wangchuk is "perfectly good" in terms of health, according to ASG Nataraj, and he is receiving the best care possible at AIIMS Jodhpur.

"He is also complaining of health problems, so it's not like you're not acknowledging that there are problems. The physician confirms that it is present and that treatment is now underway.

"We made [the request] last day itself, and it's true that there is a health issue," Justice Varale said orally.

ASG stated: "As far as the health issue is concerned, Jaipur is the finest location instead of Ladakh. In contrast to Ladakh, where there would have been nothing, Rajasthan has AIIMS.

"No, no you can't say that." Justice Varale answered.

ASG Nataraj requested that a decision be made on the case after tomorrow. "Habeas corpus is this. You can't say that, Nataraj; you need to view and comprehend a habeas corpus petition. We couldn't handle it on Friday. According to Justice Kumar.

Nonetheless, the Court declared that no more adjournments would be granted and for the subject to be heard on Wednesday.

Case Information: UNION OF INDIA AND ORS v. GITANJALI J. ANGMO|W.P.(Cri.) No. 399/2025

Dr. Sarvam Ritam Khare, the Advocate on Record, has filed the writ petition.