

citizens as guaranteed by Article 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India.

3. The writ petitions, filed as public interest litigations, were resisted by the Union of India primarily on the ground that the issues sought to be raised pertain to governmental policies and executive decisions in respect of which it may not be appropriate for this Court to lay down binding guidelines under Article 142. The decision of this Court in **Manzoor Ali Khan & Anr. Vs. Union of India & Ors.**¹ and a pronouncement of the Delhi High Court in **Umesh Mohan Sethi Vs. Union of India & Anr.**² have been relied upon by the Union in support of its above stated stand.

4. The issues arising in the writ petitions were considered by this Court in an earlier round of exhaustive hearings. By order dated 23.04.2014, this Court, on consideration of the respective stands of the parties and by relying on the principles laid down in the decisions specifically referred to in the aforesaid order dated 23.04.2014, *inter alia*, held that there is no dispute that "primary cause of government

¹ (2014) 7 SCC 321

² WP (C) No.2926 of 2012 decided on 12.12.2012