

**MISC. CASE NO. 1 OF 2021**  
**REF. CASE NO. 2 OF 2021**

**21.05.2021**

1. Register this application as separate Misc. Case. Director (Inquiry) filed an application dated 18.05.2021 stating that the Preliminary Inquiry of the case could not be completed within the stipulated time as there were curfews from time to time and also restriction of the movement of persons and suspension of activities under different orders of the Government of Manipur. The copies of the said orders of Government of Manipur are annexed with the present application which are as listed below:

- 1) No. H-1601/6/2020-HD-HD dated 16.04.2021
- 2) No. H-1601/6/2020-HD-HD dated 29.04.2021
- 3) No. H-1601/6/2020-HD-HD dated 17.05.2021

2. The stipulated period for completion of the Preliminary Inquiry is provided under Chapter No.VII of the Manipur Lokayukta Act, 2014. Chapter VII of the Act consists of 5 sections viz. Section 20,21,22,23 and 24. Chapter No.VII prescribes the procedures in respect of preliminary inquiry and investigation. The rule of procedures are the handmaid of justice and not it's mistress. The rules of procedures are made to advance the cause of justice not to defeat it. Even though the stipulated period for completion of the preliminary inquiry is provided under chapter VII of the Act, there shall be exceptional circumstances and situation for extending the stipulated period for completion of preliminary inquiry. In the present case, taking into consideration of the exceptional circumstances and situation prevailing in the state of Manipur due to Covid-19 pandemic, we are in the considered view that there are exceptional circumstances for extending the stipulated period for completion of preliminary inquiry. Accordingly, a further period of 90 days is extended w.e.f. 22.05.2021 for completion of the preliminary inquiry.

3. Misc. Case is allowed.

Sd/-  
**MEMBER**

Sd/-  
**CHAIRPERSON**