

## **Chhattisgarh HC raps govt for dog-soiled mid-day meal**

*Pay ₹25,000 to all  
84 students: Court*

**RABINDRA NATH  
CHOUDHURY  
RAIPUR, AUG 21**

The Chhattisgarh high court has directed the state government to pay a compensation of Rs 25,000 each to 84 students who were served dog-soiled midday meals in their school last month. The students of a middle school in Lakhanpur under Balodabazar-Bhatapara district in the state were served a mid-day meal soiled by a dog on July 28.

The Chhattisgarh high court took suo motu cognizance of the matter treating it as a plea and sought a report from the state government.

Dismissing the state's argument that the students were administered three doses of anti-rabies vaccines and were found to be fit after a subsequent health check-up, a division bench of the high court comprising Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha and Justice Bibhu Datta Guru directed the state government to pay the compensation amount within a month.

As per the government report, a self-help group (SHG) had prepared the midday meal and served it to the students in the school. Students noticed the food was soiled by a dog and reported the matter to the school authorities who had ordered the SHG not to serve the food to the students.