

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH**

CWP No.16760 of 2018

Date of Decision : 24.01.2019

Gurpartap Singh and others

....Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others

...Respondents

CORAM : HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE MAHESH GROVER
HON'BLE MR JUSTICE LALIT BATRA

Present : Mr.C.M.Munjal, Advocate
for the petitioners.

Mr.Suveer Sheokand, Addl.AG, Punjab.

MAHESH GROVER, J.(O)

Learned counsel for the petitioners has pointed to the illegal mining in certain areas which has been denied by the respondents but it has been averred by the learned counsel for the State on instructions from ASI Vann Singh, PS Sadar Zira, Punjab that in some areas illegal mining has been done and 16 FIRs have been registered. It is stated by the learned counsel for the respondents that efforts are being made to curb this menace and specific directions have been issued to the Deputy Commissioners and the Senior Superintendents of Police in the State to ensure its stoppage.

After hearing the learned counsel for the parties, we are of the opinion that this is a matter to be addressed by the State on its own and if any instance of illegal mining is brought to the notice of the authority concerned, it should act with promptitude. If the State has issued directions to ensure accountability, then it is expected that it would live upto the directive that it has issued. We can only expect so. These are issues which affect the environment and the lives of the people and it is difficult for the courts to step in and monitor each and every illegality committed. Since

some illegality has indeed been pointed out, we direct the Deputy Commissioners and the Senior Superintendents of Police of the concerned areas to ensure that there is a proper check and the culprits are brought to book. The investigation in the FIRs mentioned in the affidavit filed by the State as also those which have been registered elsewhere in the State would be completed expeditiously and challan submitted to the Courts of competent jurisdiction. We also make it clear that courts shall ensure quick and expedient trials in such cases so that the culprits are brought to book and a proper message goes to the society.

Petition stands disposed of.

(MAHESH GROVER)
JUDGE

24.01.2019
dss

(LALIT BATRA)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
Whether reportable	Yes/No