

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

CWP-PIL No. 59 of 2020 (O&M)
Date of decision:- 02.06.2020

Nirmal GoranaPetitioner
Versus

State of Haryana and others ...Respondents

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAVI SHANKER JHA, CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN PALLI, JUDGE.**

Present:- Ms. Ankita Wilson, Advocate, for the petitioner.
Mr. P.S.Bajwa, Addl. Advocate General, Punjab.
Mr. Deepak Balyan, Addl. Advocate General, Haryana.

* * * *

RAVI SHANKER JHA, C.J. (ORAL)

With the consent of learned counsel for the parties, the matter is being taken up and heard via video conferencing (Webex App software).

This petition has been filed by the petitioner by way of public interest litigation seeking a direction for simplifying the process of registration of stranded migrant workers and to provide them adequate ration and food etc. and take necessary expeditious steps to ensure that they are sent back to their homes by providing necessary transport facilities.

The petitioner in this regard has given instance of 42 stranded migrant workers at Government Primary School, Village Balaur, Tehsil Bahadurgarh, District Jhajjar who have neither been provided with the facility of transportation for going to their homes nor have they been provided necessary ration thereby leading to a situation where they are at the verge of starvation.

State of Haryana has filed a preliminary response to the petition and stated that all the migrant workers including 42 mentioned in the petition have already been sent back to their homes by the authorities on 13.05.2020. It has been further stated that as many as 583000 food packets and in addition 8389 dry ration packets have been distributed in District Jhajjar by the authorities.

Learned Additional Advocate General appearing for the State of Haryana has further stated that they have notified two helpline numbers i.e. 01251-253118 and 1950 to assist all the migrant workers in case they find themselves in a difficult position or need any assistance.

Similar submission has been made by the learned Additional Advocate General appearing for the State of Punjab.

On a submission being made by learned counsel for the petitioner, learned Additional Advocate General appearing for the State of Haryana and learned Additional Advocate General appearing for the State of Punjab have conjointly stated that they shall ensure that the helpline numbers are in working condition and that the authorities at the local level shall immediately response to any kind of call for seeking any assistance by the migrant workers. They have also undertaken to simplify the process of registration of stranded migrant workers and make all efforts and provide necessary assistance to them for going to their homes or for any other purpose. Both the learned Additional Advocate General have also stated that they are also complying with the directions issued by the Supreme Court on 26.05.2020 and 28.05.2020 in a suo-motu writ petition No. 6 of 2020 wherein the Supreme Court has issued interim directions to all the State Government(s) and Union Territories to ensure that no fare either of train or bus is charged from the migrant labourers and the food etc. be provided to them free of costs. The State Governments shall simplify and speed up the process of registration of migrant workers and that the means of transportation are provided as early as possible to them after the registration. The Supreme Court has also directed that those migrant workers who are found walking on highways or roads shall be immediately provided transport to their destination and would also be provided the facility of food and water etc. The Supreme Court in the said writ petition has taken up all the issues relating to migrant workers and issued directions therein and called for reports from all the States and Union Territories.

It is informed by both the learned Additional Advocate General that they are strictly complying with the directions issued by the Supreme Court and are also in the process of filing reports before the Supreme Court as the matter is coming up for hearing on 06.06.2020.

In view of the aforesaid facts and circumstances as the stranded migrant labourers have already reached to their respective homes and necessary directions have already been issued by the Supreme Court which are being complied with by the States of Punjab and Haryana and that they are in the process of filing compliance reports before the Supreme Court, we do not find any reason to issue any further order in the present petition as the matter is already seized of by the Apex Court and is being dealt with in accordance with law.

With these observations and directions, the petition stands disposed of.

(RAVI SHANKER JHA)
CHIEF JUSTICE

(ARUN PALLI)
JUDGE

02.06.2020
ravinder sharma

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