

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

CWP-PIL No. 62 of 2020 (O&M)
Date of decision:- 03.06.2020

Swarnjit SinghPetitioner
Versus
Union of India and others ...Respondents

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

Present:- Mr. Sanjiv Kumar Yadav, Advocate, for the petitioner.
Mr. S.P.Jain, Addl. Solicitor General of India with
Ms. Gehna Vaishnavi, Central Govt. Counsel for UOI.
Mr. Pankaj Jain, Sr. Standing Counsel for U.T. Chandigarh
with Mr. Jaiveer Chandel, Advocate for U.T.
Mr. G.S.Bal, Sr. Advocate with
Ms. Kulwant Kaur, Advocate, for the Railways.
Mr. Deepak Balyan, Addl. Advocate General, Haryana.
Mr. P.S.Bajwa, Addl. Advocate General, Punjab.

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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 praying for grant of relief to the migrant labourers who are going back from the States of Punjab, Haryana and Union Territory, Chandigarh. Petitioner also prayed for providing adequate relief to some of the migrants who according to him have died while returning to their homes.

The submissions made by learned counsel for the petitioner are entirely based on newspapers reports. However, no specific particulars as to who have died or as to whether they have subsequently approached the authorities for grant of compensation or as to whether such compensation has actually been paid to them or not are not mentioned nor stated anywhere in the petition.

All the respondents have pointed out that all the issues relating to the migrant labourers and the problems and miseries faced by them have already been taken up by the Supreme Court in suo-motu Writ Petition

(Civil) No. 6 of 2020 and while the responses and reports have been called from all the States and Union Territories, certain emergent interim directions have also been issued wherein the Supreme Court has directed all the respondents to make adequate arrangement for repatriating the migrant workers through rails or road transport and not to charge any fare from them. The Supreme Court has also issued directions to make necessary provisions like meals, water etc. for these migrant workers during the process of repatriation. The Supreme Court has also directed the authorities to simplify the process of registration and thereafter to make sure that the workers after registration are provided the facility of transportation on an early date. The direction to provide necessary transportation and food etc. to those migrant labourers who are found walking on highways and roads has also been issued by the Supreme Court. Apart from these emergent and interim directions, all other issues are going to be taken up by the Supreme Court after receiving reports from all the States and Union Territories and the matter has now been listed for further orders on 05.06.2020.

In the circumstances, all the issues relating to migrant workers are already seized of by the Supreme Court and necessary emergent and interim directions have already been issued by the Supreme Court.

Learned Additional Solicitor General of India appearing for the Union of India, learned Senior Standing counsel appearing for the Union Territory, Chandigarh, learned Senior counsel appearing for the Railways and learned Additional Advocate General appearing for both the States of Punjab and Haryana submit and undertake to ensure proper compliance of the directions issued by the Supreme Court as well as to file reports regarding the steps taken by them before the Supreme Court.

In the circumstances, we do not find any reason to entertain the present petition or to issue any direction in the matter by taking up parallel proceedings as all the issues relating to the problems and miseries of the migrant workers have already been taken up by the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court is dealing with the same. It is, however, observed that if there is any issue which the petitioner or any other person wishes to raise, they may do so by approaching the Supreme Court in the pending matter.

With the aforesaid observations, the present petition stands disposed of.

(RAVI SHANKER JHA)
CHIEF JUSTICE

(ARUN PALLI)
JUDGE

03.06.2020
ravinder sharma

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