

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

CWP-7773-2020

Date of decision: 5.6.2020

School Van Public Welfare Society

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and others

...Respondents

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JITENDRA CHAUHAN
HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE ARCHANA PURI**

Present: Mr.DS Gandhi, Advocate for the petitioner

JITENDRA CHAUHAN, J.

The matter has been taken up through video-conferencing in the light of the pandemic Covid-19 situation and as per instructions.

This writ petition under Articles 226/227 of the Constitution of India has been filed for issuance of direction to the respondents not to charge any road tax and other taxes in respect of vehicles i.e. school buses/vans, which run in the State of Punjab under the safe school Vahan Scheme (Annexure P-3) till the pandemic Covid -19, as these are not in use since 13.3.2020 on account of various orders passed by the State Govt. as well as the Central Govt. owing to the global outbreak of pandemic Covid -19.

Learned counsel for the petitioner states that at this stage, he would be satisfied, if a direction is issued to respondent No.1 – Principal Secretary, Govt of Punjab, Department of Transport, Punjab to consider and decide the representation dated 15.5.2020 (Annexure P-11) expeditiously.

Heard.

In view of the above, without adverting to the merits of the case, the present petition is disposed of with a direction to respondent No.1 – Principal Secretary, Govt of Punjab, Department of Transport, Punjab to consider and decide the representation dated 15.5.2020 (Annexure P-11), after affording an opportunity of hearing to the petitioner, in accordance with law within six weeks from the date of receipt of the certified copy of the judgment. In case, on consideration, the competent authority reaches to the conclusion that the benefit claimed by the petitioner is admissible to him, in such eventuality, the consequential relief be allowed to him, within a period of six weeks thereafter. However, in case the competent authority feels that the relief claimed by the petitioner is not admissible or made out, in that case, a speaking order be passed in the matter.

[JITENDRA CHAUHAN]
JUDGE

[ARCHANA PURI]
JUDGE

5.6.2020

gsv

Whether speaking / reasoned?

Yes / No

Whether reportable?

Yes / No