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IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CWP-9068-2016
Date of decision: 09.08.2022

ADVERTISERS WELFARE ASSOCIATION REGD.

...Petitioner

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB AND ANR.

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE JAISHREE THAKUR

Present:- Mr. Vijay Kumar Jindal, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Ms. Deepali Puri, Addl. A. G., Punjab.

JAISHREE THAKUR, J. (Oral)

The petitioner herein has approached this Court with a claim that there is no uniform policy for collection of tax.

Learned counsel for the petitioner herein *inter alia* contend that various Municipal Councils/Committees are charging tax at a different rate.

Pursuant to notice of motion having been issued as far back as in 2016, reply by way of an affidavit of Sh. Bhupinder Pal Singh, Director, Department of Local Government, Punjab dated 21.11.2019 has been filed, wherein a categorical stand has been taken that the Department of Local Government has notified The Punjab Municipal Outdoor Advertisement Policy-2018. Para Nos.4 and 5 of the said reply are being reproduced hereunder:-

4. That the Director, Local Government vide letter no.2034 dated 20.06.2019, issued instructions to the Executive Officer, Sri Mukatsar to comply with the notified Outdoor Advertisement Policy 2018 and the agreement executed between the successful bidder. He was also directed to use the sites approved by the Committee Regulation (ARC) only for advertisement and to check unauthorized hoardings .

5. That it is further submitted that the Department of Local Government has notified "The Punjab Municipal Outdoor Advertisement Policy - 2018 ' on 21.03.2018 . That the objective of this policy is to explicitly discourage visual clutter and to ensure that outdoor advertising is not hazardous to public. The provisions of this policy envisage high level of safety for road users and ULBs are intended to maintain traffic efficiency and to ensure that no advertising device contravene the Advertising Industrial Code of Ethics or promote any negative advertisement. ULBs have appointed Nodal Officers to ensure compliance of the provisions of the policy and for enforcement and removal of unauthorized advertising devices or advertising devices which contravene with the provision of the policy.

Therefore, in view of the fact that the uniform policy has come into existence as stated in the affidavit, this Court finds that the relief as sought by the petitioner herein has been redressed.

Consequently, the instant writ petition is disposed of an infructuous.

09.08.2022
Chetan Thakur

(JAISHREE THAKUR)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned : *Yes/No*

Whether reportable : *Yes/No*