

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

CWP-PIL-116-2019 (O&M)

Date of decision: 23.01.2023

Bal Kranti Trust (Registered)

....Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana and others

....Respondents

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

Present: Mr. Balraj Gujjar, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Mr. Samarth Sagar, Additional A.G., Haryana.

RAVI SHANKER JHA, CHIEF JUSTICE (Oral)

This petition has been filed by the petitioner allegedly in public interest pointing out several irregularities and defaults in the implementation of Surakshit School Vahan Policy, dated 30.01.2014 (for short, 'the Policy'), and for fixing responsibility of the officials, who are responsible for the lapses therein.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the Policy is for providing safe and secure transportation services to the school going children. He, however, submits that on account of certain lapses, two unfortunate incidents occurred resulting in death of some school going children.

Pursuant to the notice issued by this Court, learned Additional Advocate General, Haryana, caused appearance and has filed several status reports, indicating the steps taken by the State authorities for proper implementation of the Policy and for taking action against the violators. He submits that in respect of the unfortunate incidents mentioned by the petitioner in the petition, criminal proceedings have already been initiated, which are pending. The other respondents have also filed their separate replies, bringing on record the steps taken by them to ensure proper implementation of the Policy.

At this stage, learned Additional Advocate General, Haryana, submits that though the latest status report is ready with him, however, he could not file it in the Registry. He prays for and is granted permission to file the same in the Registry. He, while referring to the said status report, submits that under the Policy, a checking team has been constituted, along with a Technical Expert, Motor Vehicles Inspector and other representatives, i.e. Police Officers, District Education Officers etc., to inspect school buses by visiting school premises instead of the routes followed by the buses, so that children do not suffer unnecessary harassment. It is also submitted that on inspection, those who have been found defaulting or violating the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act and the Policy, have been challaned, and details of challans of school transport vehicles between 01.01.2020 to 31.11.2022, have been appended as Annexure R-1, along with the status report. He further submits that the authorities are continuously monitoring the issue and are taking all possible remedial measures.

In view of the abovesaid statement made by learned Additional Advocate General, Haryana, the present petition is disposed of. However, liberty is granted to the petitioner take up fresh proceedings with the respondent authorities by filing a comprehensive complaint/representation, in case it feels that there are certain other aspects that need to be addressed to or any default is still being committed by the schools or other authorities in the implementation of the Policy.

(RAVI SHANKER JHA)
CHIEF JUSTICE

(ARUN PALLI)
JUDGE

January 23, 2023
Ak Sharma

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