



224 IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA  
AT CHANDIGARH

CWP-PIL-128-2024  
Date of decision: 19.09.2024

Vaibhav Vats and another ...Petitioners

Vs.

State of Haryana and others ...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SHEEL NAGU, CHIEF JUSTICE  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANIL KSHETARPAL

Present: Mr. Angrej Singh Sarwara, Advocate  
alongwith petitioner-in person.

Mr. Deepak Balyan, Addl. Advocate General, Haryana.

Ms. Promila Nain, Sr. Panel Counsel  
for respondent No.6-UOI.

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SHEEL NAGU, CHIEF JUSTICE, (ORAL)

1. This Public Interest Litigation essentially raises public cause of failure of the authorities to adequately deal with forest fire, which took place in Morni Hills, forest area and got exacerbated because of excessive heat during the summer season in 2024.

2. State of Haryana has filed a short reply duly supported by an affidavit *inter alia* stating that though the State is not in possession of modern firefighting equipments but the fire which took place in the Morni Hills has since been contained and adequate number of forest personnel have been deputed at the strategic area in the forest to prevent any incident of fire. Patrolling teams and fire watchers have also been deputed.

3. In the short reply filed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest



and Climate Change, Government of India, Forest and Climate Change, it is informed that various disaster management agencies, such as, District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) have been involved and comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures have been notified by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), New Delhi vide Annexure R-1/1 in this regard.

4. Considering the positive response of the State of Haryana as well as the Central Government, this Court deems it appropriate to dispose of this petition since the cause raised by the petitioner appears to have been redressed for the time being.

5. Accordingly, the petition, stands disposed of with direction to the Central Government as well as State of Haryana that all possible steps be taken not only to acquire the modern forest fire fighting equipments but also other modern techniques to avoid any future incidents of forest fire.

(SHEEL NAGU)  
CHIEF JUSTICE

(ANIL KSHETARPAL)  
JUDGE

19.09.2024

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Whether speaking/reasoned :  
Whether Reportable :

Yes  
Yes

No  
No