

Court on its own motion

Vs.

High Court of Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh and others

Present : Mohd. Jameel, Advocate (amicus curiae).

Ms. Tanu Bedi, Advocate,  
Mr. Sumit Kumar, Advocate, and  
Mr. Sandeep Kang, Advocate,  
for respondent No.1.

Mr. Salil Sabhlok, Senior DAG, Punjab.

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

Mr. Abhinav Sood, Addl. Standing Counsel, UT Chandigarh.

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Learned counsel for respondent No.1 points out to Office Memorandum dated 28.02.2024 issued by the Government of India, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) to contend that responsibility of assessment and evaluation of the accessibility of infrastructure and facility for persons with disabilities rests with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of India, which ought to be made a party.

Accordingly, the Government of India, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), is ordered to be impleaded as respondent No.3. Registry is directed to make necessary correction in the memo of parties.

Mr. Satya Pal Jain, learned Additional Solicitor General of India, who is present in the Court, is directed to seek instructions on behalf of newly added respondent. Complete copy of the paper-book be supplied to him.

The relevant agencies in State of Punjab as well as State of Haryana and UT Chandigarh be also impleaded as respondents.

The charts filed by the State of Punjab as well as State of Haryana reveal that there are several deficiencies in the basic infrastructural requirements to make the District Courts and Sub Divisional Courts in both the States disabled friendly.

Let the aforesaid information by both the States, with a tabular illustration, be placed before the respective Building Committees, which shall take appropriate steps for eliminating the said deficiencies.

For ensuring the complete compliance and removal of all deficiencies, let the matter be listed on 16.12.2024.

( SHEEL NAGU )  
CHIEF JUSTICE

( ALOK JAIN )  
JUDGE

November 14, 2024  
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