

Court on its own motion Vs. State of H.P. and Ors. a/w connected matter

CWPIL No. 30 of 2022 a/w CWP No. 1235 of 2018

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29.05.2024Present:

Mr. Shrawan Dogra, Sr. Advocate as Amicus Curiae with Mr. Manik Sethi, Advocate.

Mr. Anup Rattan, Advocate General with Mr. Rakesh Dhaulta, Additional Advocate General, for the respondents/State.

Mr. Maan Singh, Advocate, for respondent no.5.

CWP No. 1235 of 2018

Ms, Lalita Sharma, Advocate, vice Mr. Anil Kumar, Advocate, for the petitioner.

Mr. Anup Rattan, Advocate General with Mr. Rakesh Dhaulta, Additional Advocate General, for the respondents/State.

None for respondent no.5.

Mr. Shrawan Dogra, Sr. Advocate as Amicus Curiae with Mr. Manik Sethi, Advocate, for respondent no.6.

Mr. Balram Sharma, Deputy solicitor General of India, for respondent no.7.

None for respondents no. 9 and 12.

Heard Mr. Shrawan Dogra, learned Senior Counsel, and learned Advocate General and perused the Minutes of Meeting held on 29.03.2023 by the Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh, wherein certain directions have been issued to the various Authorities in relation to fire safety in forest and water harvesting

Advocate General has also placed before us an Action Taken Report indicating some of the proactive and mitigative steps taken by the State, but much more needs to be done. Therefore, the respondents shall file a status report as to the extent to which the directions of the Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh given to all the Deputy Commissioners and Departments in the State are implemented, on the next date of hearing.

List on 25.06.2024.

Respondents are expected to take all possible measures to ensure that forest fire are prevented and if not prevented at least controlled and damage to the forest ecology or property of the citizens is kept at a minimum.

(M.S. Ramachandra Rao) Chief Justice

> (Satyen Vaidya) Judge

29th May, 2024