


 CWP-PIL-9-2023 (O&M) and CWP-27621-2013 (O&M)

Vinod Dhatteval and others Vs. Union of India and others

Present : Mr. Aashish Chopra, Senior Advocate, with
Mr. Gagandeep Singh, Advocate,
Mr. Varun Aryan Sharma, Advocate, and
Mr. Jagjot Singh, Advocate,
for the petitioners in CWP-PIL-9-2023.

Mr. R.S. Khosla, Senior Advocate, with
Mr. Yogender Verma, Advocate, and
Ms. Meenakshi Thakur, Advocate,
for the petitioner in CWP-27621-2013.

Mr. Satya Pal Jain, Addl. Solicitor General of India, with
Mr. Dheeraj Jain, Senior Panel Counsel, UOI, and
Mr. Brijeshwar Singh Kanwar, Senior Panel Counsel, UOI,
for the respondent – UOI.

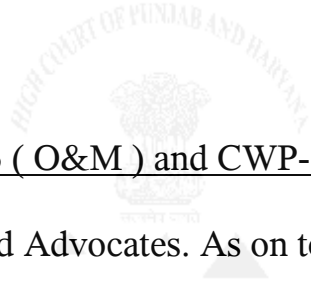
Mr. Gaurav Chopra, Senior Advocate, with
Mr. Anurag Chopra, Advocate, and
Mr. Rajeev Anand, Advocate,
for respondent No.9.

Mr. Anil Mehta, Sr. Standing Counsel, UT Chandigarh, with
Mr. J.S. Chandail, Addl. Standing Counsel, UT Chandigarh,
Ms. Jyoti Kumari, Advocate, and
Mr. Kapil Setia, Chief Architect;
Ms. Roma Marwah, Divisional Town Planner; and
Mr. Mandip Mendiratta, Town Planner, Chandigarh.

Mr. Vikas Malik, President, HCBA, Chandigarh, with
Mr. Swaran Singh Tiwana, Secretary, HCBA, Chandigarh.

It is stated that learned counsel appearing on behalf of the Union Territory, Chandigarh, alongwith the officers of the Union Territory, Chandigarh, who are present in the Court today, had discussions with the Office of the Registrar General of this Court today itself, with respect to allotment of the alternative land in Sarangpur, for the administrative block of the High Court, which was to be considered by them, as observed in the order dated 15.01.2024, passed by this Court.

This High Court was constructed in the year 1954 with sanctioned strength of 09 Judges and at that time, there were about



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200/250 registered Advocates. As on today, the sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges is 85 and there are about 10000 to 12000 registered Advocates in the High Court. Hence, in the gap of almost 70 years, the sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges has arisen from 09 to 85 and at present, there are 69 Court Rooms in the High Court building, in which Permanent Lok Adalats as well as Mediation Centers are also working. Further, this Court is in the process of appointing 10 Counsellors and extra staff will be required for their back-up. In the next 50 years, there can be further increase in the sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges to the extent of 140/150. To accommodate so many Judges as well as the administrative staff, land in Sarangpur, which consists of two plots of 06 acres each and one plot of 2.86 acres, should be allotted by the Chandigarh Administration in favour of the High Court. Earlier, this Court in its order dated 21.12.2023 had observed that the High Court will give up its building situated in Sector 17 and Industrial Area Phase-I, Chandigarh, if the aforesaid three plots are allotted to the High Court. However, at that time, the increase in the sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges from 09 in the year 1954 to 85 in the year 2024 as well as the further increase in the next 50 years, had not been examined. Hence, now since this fact has also been examined, it is made clear that if the aforesaid three plots are allotted to the High Court, the High Court will not give up its building situated in Sector 17 and Industria Area Phase-I, Chandigarh.

Mr. Kapil Setia, Chief Architech, Ms. Roma Marwah, Divisional Town Planner, and Mr. Mandip Mendiratta, Town Planner, from the Chandigarh Administration, are present in the Court. Keeping in

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view the observations made above, with regard to increase in the sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges from 09 in the year 1954 till date and the further increase in the next 50 years, the Officers of the Chandigarh Administration cannot further examine the total land required to accommodate the sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges as well as the administrative block in the High Court premises.

Mr. Anil Menta, learned Senior Standing Counsel, U.T., Chandigarh, had shown a plan of Sarangpur, wherein there were two plots of 06 acres each and one plot of 2.86 acres were shown to be available for allotment. Keeping in view the future need of 50 years, a direction is being issued to the Union Territory, Chandigarh, administration to allot these three plots to the High Court. It is made clear that the land in the Industrial Area and Sector 17, Chandigarh, where the High Court branches are already functioning, shall not be given back to the Chandigarh administration.

List on 24.01.2024.

A copy of this order be placed on the file of connected case.

Copy of this order under the signatures of the Bench Secretary be handed over to learned counsel for the parties.

(RITU BAHRI)
ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE

(NIDHI GUPTA)
JUDGE

January 19, 2024
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