



Court on its own motion Vs. State of H.P. & Ors.

CWPIL No.27 of 2019

27.03.2024 Present: Mr. R.K. Gautam, Senior Advocate as Amicus Curiae with Mr. Jai Ram Sharma, Advocate.

Mr. Anup Rattan, Advocate General with Mr. Rakesh Dhaulta, Mr. Pranay Pratap Singh, Mr. Sushant Keprate & Mr. Gobind Korla, Additional Advocates General and Mr. Arsh Rattan, Mr. Sidharth Jalta & Ms. Priyanka Chauhan, Deputy Advocates General, for respondents no.1 and 3 to 5.

Mr. K.D. Shreedhar, Senior Advocate with Ms. Shreya Chauhan, Advocate, for respondent no.2-NHAI.

Mr. Balram Sharma, DSGI, for the respondent-UOI.

Status report filed by the NHAI with regard to NH-05 has been perused.

We appreciate some of the steps taken to improve the road condition and the safety on this section, and hope that the process would continue till all the issues are resolved.

We are however particularly distressed at the lack of improvement in the road condition between Manali and Mandi on NH-21 (Old).

We have noticed on a recent visit over the weekend to Kullu & Manali that nothing much has been done to repair the road condition or remove the landslides at several places, where they have occurred on account of heavy rainfall in the months of July and August, 2023.

Though tunnels on the said section are good, there are several stretches where it is difficult for the motorists to drive because of heavy dust on road and poor road conditions.

Also in several places, the mudslides/landslides, which had occurred, have not been removed and the roads are very narrow at several points, which require immediate attention of the NHAI.

Let a report be filed by the NHAI on the Manali-Mandi section of the above National Highway on the next date of hearing. Steps proposed to be taken to rectify the above aspects shall be indicated in the said status report.

List on **04.04.2024**.

(M.S. Ramachandra Rao)
Chief Justice

(Jyotsna Rewal Dua)
Judge

March 27, 2024
Mukesh