

**CWP-7409-2020 (O&M)  
(Heard through VC)**

**Independent Schools' Association Chandigarh (Regd.) and others  
V/s.  
State of Punjab and others**

Present: Mr. Aashish Chopra, Advocate for the petitioners.

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Learned counsel for the petitioners while referring to the letter/memo dated 14.05.2020 (Annexure P-11) *inter alia* contends that Punjab School Education Board has given directions that schools can only charge tuition fee and not building charges, transportation charges, and charges for meals etc. At the same time at condition No. 3.0 (v), schools have been directed not to reduce the salary of the teachers. He further contends that both these conditions are contradictory keeping in view that on one side parents are to be given concession of not depositing the full fees and on the other side, schools are being directed not to reduce the salary of the teachers. He submits that all the private un-aided schools deposit funds under the head 'Reserved Fund' with the Punjab School Education Board which amounts to Rs.77 Crores at present and even with regard to running of the schools with minimum staff, sanitization is being done by the private schools and Govt. of Punjab has not come to help them on this side as well. He further contends that admission fee of the students cannot be stalled as this fee is taken one time by the parents when the child gets admission in school.

Notice of motion.

Ms. Anu Pal, Deputy Advocate General, Punjab accepts notice on behalf of the official respondents and states that schools charge fee under the different heads and transportation charges are always separate and this

CWP-7409-2020 (O&M)

-2-

cannot be made a ground to alter the letter/memo dated 14.05.2020 (Annexure P-11). However she seeks time to file detailed reply.

Keeping in view the present circumstances, interim direction is being given that the admission fee which is paid one time by the parents, shall be paid in two equal installments in six months and the 70% of the total school fee will be charged from the parents of the students and 70% salary will be paid to the teachers during the pendency of this writ petition.

On the next date of hearing, learned counsel for the State will file detailed reply and further will get instructions as to how the respondents can help the private schools with regard to amount deposited in the 'Reserved Fund' for sanitizing the school buildings.

List on 12.06.2020.

22.05.2020  
Divyanshi

RITU BAHRI  
(JUDGE)

सत्यमेव जयते