

The Learned Counsel appearing for the State submits that the Government is already examining the rehabilitation "R&R" scheme, to ensure ecological and environmental balance and protection at Rohtang Pass.

In view of the statement made on behalf of the State this application does not survive for consideration and is accordingly disposed of.

Main Matter

In furtherance to the order of the Tribunal dated 06th July, 2015 reply to show cause notice has been filed on behalf of all the officers to whom show cause notices have been issued. The Learned Counsel appearing for other Applicants/Respondents pray for time to file their objection to these affidavits. Let the objections, if any, be filed within two weeks from today, with advance copy to the Learned Counsel appearing for State. The Learned Counsel appearing for the State submit that they would like to place on record steps taken by them during the interregnum period from July, 2015 to the next date of hearing i.e. on 17th September, 2015. In order to provide another opportunity to the State Government to show its bonafides and actual implementation of the direction passed by the Tribunal, the State Government may file status report of the steps taken by them from July, 2015 to September, 2015, three days in advance to the next date of hearing already fixed at Shimla i.e. on 17th September, 2015. Status report shall be in the form of affidavit to be filed by the Additional Chief Secretary and annexed with photographs or videos in support thereof.

We further direct the Chief Secretary, Director

General of Police and the concerned Secretaries to be present in the Chamber meeting before the Tribunal at Shimla on 17th September, 2015 at 10:00 AM.

The Learned Counsel appearing for the State has informed that trial of CNG Buses at Rohtang Pass has been successful. They have planned to introduce CNG buses for regular operation from Vashist to Rohtang Pass.

We direct Delhi Metro Rail Corporation to provide the available number of buses to the State of Himachal Pradesh demanded by the Secretary, Transport immediately. In fact the buses which have been sent on trial could be provided forthwith. These buses would be operated by the State Government for the remaining of the current tourism season.

The Learned Counsel appearing for some of the Taxi Associations and other Applicants submit that they should also be permitted to conduct trial run of CNG vehicles under the Supervision of the State.

In the meanwhile the State Government shall also place order for buying CNG buses, which are luxury buses with high power engine.

In the meanwhile, we will also direct the Additional Chief Secretary along with Secretary, Transport of State of Himachal Pradesh to discuss the matter with Gail Gas India Ltd. or with any other agency, for supply of CNG to the vehicles at Manali and submit before the Tribunal complete and comprehensive report in that regard. This should be done immediately, which is only an arrangement for 6 months or till the requisite plant is established at Nangal, where the pipeline is passing

through as stated. The Transportation Agency for supply of CNG at Mandi would be suggested by the Gail Gas India Ltd. Along with the affidavit filed on behalf of G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, a report has been filed. In this report it has submitted that there is a serious environmental problem due to unregulated and unplanned tourism, over-crowding, exploitation of natural resources, over-construction of hotels, inadequate infrastructure, littering of waste and other activities associated with tourism which have become a regular source of pollution and ecological and environmental degradation in that area. In this they have already proposed to carry out a study for suggesting measures for which the State of Himachal Pradesh has to provide finance. Let that request also be considered by the State of Himachal Pradesh.

List this matter on the date already fixed.

.....,CP
(Swatanter Kumar)

.....,JM
(M.S. Nambiar)

.....,EM
(Dr. D.K. Agrawal)

.....,EM
(Prof. A.R. Yousuf)