

24.12.2018 Present: Mr. R. L. Verma, Advocate, Proxy Counsel, for the petitioner.
Mr. Ashok Sharma, Advocate General, with M/s J.K. Verma, Ranjan Sharma and Nand Lal Thakur, Additional Advocate Generals, for the respondents/State.
Mr. Rohit, Advocate, Proxy Counsel, for respondent No. 9.

We have perused the affidavit of State Geologist, Himachal Pradesh dated 23rd October, 2018 alongwith proceedings of the meeting held on 15th October, 2018, a copy whereof has been appended as Annexure R-1. It appears from the proceedings as well as the averments made in the affidavit that the installation of CCTV Cameras for the purpose of monitoring of illegal mining activities is not appearing to be as fruitful as was expected.

Learned Additional Advocate General has suggested that instead of CCTV Cameras, the possibility of using DRONES for the purpose of monitoring of illegal mining activities can be explored provided that: (i) it is economically viable; and (ii) it proves to be useful. Let the State Authorities examine this aspect and submit a report on the next date of hearing.

Post the matter for further hearing on **11th March, 2019.**

**(Surya Kant)
Chief Justice**

**(Ajay Mohan Goel)
Judge**

December 24, 2018
(bhupender/K)