

20.05.2024 Present: None for the petitioner.

Mr. Rajnish Maniktala, Sr. Advocate with Mr. Dinkar Bhaskar, Advocate, for the intervener.

Mr. Rakesh Dhaulta & Mr. Gobind Korla, Additional Advocates General with Mr. Arsh Rattan, Mr. Sidharth Jalta & Ms. Priyanka Chauhan, Deputy Advocates General, for respondents no. 1, 2 and 4 to 7-State.

Mr. Balram Sharma, DSGI, for respondent no.8.

Perused the status report dt. 23.12.2023 filed by the State Government and the report of the learned Deputy Solicitor General dt. 17.10.2023.

2. Learned Senior Counsel appearing for the Intervener, after having perused both the reports, has placed on record following points: -

1. *There are two trauma centers being established one in two floors of new OPD building and second an additional block of trauma center.*
2. *This Hon'ble Court directed vide its order dated 29.5.2019 that two storeys in OPD Block earmarked for trauma center be made functional by 30.6.2019.*
3. *Both the trauma centers have not been handed over to IGMC by HPPWD-Pg 14 DSGI Report.*
4. *Chief Minister inaugurated the Additional Trauma Block on 9.3.2023 despite not being functional, which is not even in sight in near future.*
5. *At present, there is no dedicated trauma center in IGMC. The Casualty, Trauma Ward, Emergency OT and Emergency Department are running from one floor in Old IGMC Building - Pg 18 Point D DSGI Report.*

6. *Municipal Corporation has not given approval to both the buildings in which trauma centers are to be housed - Pg 15 DSGI Report. As per State's affidavit, there are shortcomings in the building and MC has referred the matter back to HPPWD for their removal in October 2023.*
7. *Fire Department has not given NOC for the buildings - Pg 16 DSGI Report.*
8. *For the purposes of connecting the trauma centers with main highway, private land is required to be acquired, for which public hearing was scheduled for 28.11.2023. Page 14 DSGI Report, page 4 State affidavit.*
9. *Machinery and equipment for trauma centers have not been purchased despite sending of requirement by IGMC to State - Pg 16 DSGI Report point (v). State does not say anything about such purchase than stating that requirement has been received in August 2023 Pg 5, point d of State affidavit.*
10. *Trauma center needs to have dedicated staff as per the norms, which is lacking. Pg 8, 17 DSGI Report."*

3. He also made the following suggestions: -

"It is apparent that the files keep on jumping from one office to another without there being time bound results. It is important that the Chief Secretary calls all stake holders in his office, who shall report to him in time bound frame on action taken with respect to aforesaid points. The Chief Secretary shall then report to this Hon'ble Court with respect to steps undertaken, proposed time frame for job completion and keeping a tab on different departments for reporting back to him."

4. We may also point out that in this status report filed by the State on 23.12.2023, they merely mentioned about

construction of the blocks of the Trauma Centers, earmarking of budget for procurement of machinery and equipment, creation of the post of faculty members, para-medical staff and nursing staff, but the report does not say whether any machinery or equipment has been procured or not, and how many posts of faculty members, para-medical staff and nursing staff have actually been filled up to make the buildings functional.

5. In fact, it is clear that the Trauma Center in Indira Gandhi Medical College and Hospital, Shimla is not functional, though it had been inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 09.03.2023.

6. It appears that the files are being pushed from one desk to another, but nothing concrete to make the Trauma Center functional, and deal with the points pointed out by the learned Deputy Solicitor General of India in his report, has been done.

7. The status of the Trauma Centers in other medical colleges, indicated in the status report dt. 23.12.2023, is also that they are not functional either because the construction work is not complete, machinery & equipment is not procured or vacant posts of faculty members, para-medical staff and nursing staff are not being filled up.

8. We are distressed to note that the State is showing very little interest in improving the medical infrastructure in the State,

particularly with regard to Trauma Centers in the important hospitals and medical colleges within the State located at Shimla, Tanda and Chamba.

9. We, therefore, direct the Chief Secretary, State of Himachal Pradesh (respondent no.1) to call a meeting of the heads of the departments involved including the Health Department, the Finance Department, the PWD Department, the Fire Safety Department, have a discussion, and direct them to create a time bound frame for job completion. He shall then file a report in this Court as to the steps initiated to make the Trauma Centers in three medical colleges/hospitals operational within the shortest possible time.

10. For filing the status report by the Chief Secretary, State of Himachal Pradesh, list on **19.06.2024**.

(M.S. Ramachandra Rao)
Chief Justice

(Jyotsna Rewal Dua)
Judge

May 20, 2024
R.Atal