

Court on its own motion Vs. State of Himachal Pradesh & others.

CWP No.8324 of 2023

**Item No. (D-13)
13.08.2025**

Present: Court on its own motion.

Mr. Pranay Pratap Singh, Additional Advocate General, for the respondents-State.

Affidavit has been filed in compliance of the order dated 21.07.2025.

2. Counsel for the respondents-State has tried to impress upon us that there are in effect 13 houses available for High Court Judges, while referring to the list of 12 houses and one house is occupied by the present Lokayukta, which is stated to be Type-VIII category.

3. A perusal of the list of houses would go on to show that even "Curzon House" which is shown as one of the houses at the disposal of the High Court and apparently, it is being used as Guest House of the High Court to accommodate the Judges of other States who visit Shimla on account of the fact that there is non-availability of decent accommodation available with the State. Harvinton Rather the utilization of the said property saves the State from offering the accommodation as per the status of the travelling dignitaries in hotels and therefore, we are of the considered opinion that the said house as such is not likely to be included in the 13 houses, which would be required to be provided for the High Court, in view of the earlier order passed by this Court.

4. It is also pertinent to mention that on account of lack of accommodation to the Vice Chancellor of the National Law University, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, the High Court has

permitted the Vice Chancellor to occupy one of the houses at Harvington Estate, Shimla and therefore, it does not lie in the mouth of the State as such that the houses are not being utilized.

5. Reference has also been made that one house has been kept reserved out of Type-VII and VIII category i.e. in Bemloe Estate, Benmore and Yat Place.

6. Let the State give the option as such of the houses available with the said State, since as per the table itself, 5 Judges are residing in their own accommodation and if such an option is given one of them might opt for the said accommodation to be provided by the State if specific details are given.

7. List on **22.09.2025**.

(G.S. Sandhawalia)
Chief Justice

(Ranjan Sharma)
Judge

13th August, 2025
(munish thakur)