

Court on its own motion Vs. State of H.P. & Ors.

CWP No.8324 of 2023

06.03.2024 Present: Court on its own motion.

Mr. Anup Rattan, Advocate General with Mr. Pranay Pratap Singh & Mr. Sushant Keprate, Additional Advocates General and Mr. Arsh Rattan, Mr. Sidharth Jalta & Ms. Priyanka Chauhan, Deputy Advocates General, for the respondents.

Heard the learned Advocate General and perused the reports filed by both the Registrar General as well as the Principal Secretary (GAD) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

2. As regards accommodation to High Court Judges is concerned, the houses previously earmarked for the High Court, which had been given for occupation to the Vice-Chancellor, HPNLU and the Member of H.P. Public Service Commission, have admittedly fallen vacant. They shall be restored back to the High Court at the earliest.

3. The House, being Bungalow no.3 at Benmore, Shimla, which was previously allotted to Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sureshwar Thakur, Former Judge of this High Court, was subsequently allotted to Sh. Bharat Harbans Lal Khara, Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister. The Registrar General in his report dt. 06.03.2024 states that the said house is likely to fall vacant due to central deputation of the said Officer. Therefore, since the said house was previously earmarked for a Judge of this High Court,

the same may be immediately made available by the respondents for use by the High Court Judges.

4. We have also noticed that whatever accommodation has been allotted from the General Pool to the Judicial Officers, it should be specifically earmarked to those Officers to avoid future inconvenience.

5. Learned Advocate General shall also respond to the status report filed by the Registrar General, which indicates that Bungalow, namely Main Street Lounge, Type-VIII, Shimla, House Numbers Benmore 4 to Benmore 8, Minister House no.5 Grant Lodge Type-VII and Mainsfield Lodge Type-VIII at Brockhurst Estate, be also considered for earmarking for the High Court Judges.

6. The Registrar General shall examine the report filed by the Principal Secretary (GAD) and file a fresh status report. The State shall also examine the status report filed by the Registrar General and respond to the same.

7. List on **30.04.2024**.

(M.S. Ramachandra Rao)
Chief Justice

(Jyotsna Rewal Dua)
Judge

March 06, 2024
Mukesh