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Dated: 23.9.2019

To

The Registrar General ,
Punjab and Haryana High Court,
Chandigarh

SUBJECT: Measures for reducing congestion in Court Rooms.

Sir,

Kindly allow me to submit as under:-

1. That the workload/roster of various Courts has become exceptionally heavy, with the result that in some of the Courts, more than 100 motion cases are being listed every day, and with the influx of substantial number of litigants also, the Court Rooms have become so congested , that some times it is not convenient for the Counsels to enter the Court Rooms or to exit the Court Rooms , without jostling with other Counsels/litigants, after the conclusion of hearing of their cases.

2. That almost 50% of the space in the Court Rooms is allotted/allocated for the litigants enclosure. The remaining space stands allotted for sitting arrangement of lawyers including Government lawyers. As stated above, with the increase in the work load before each of the Courts, and increase in strength of the Counsels, who have to wait for hearing of their cases, the Court Rooms have become extremely congested. The problem is further compounded for the reason that there are no security guards posted at the gates of the Court Rooms, with the result that the litigants whose cases are listed in ordinary motion cases also occupy their seats in the visitors' enclosure, at 10:00 AM itself.

3. That it has also become a practice that in group cases, the litigants to come and throng in the Court Rooms in large numbers. I may give instance of 20.9.2019, when against Item No. 235 (Sarabpreet Kaur Vs. State of Punjab and others), around 30-40 of the selected candidates occupied the visitors' enclosure right from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM, i.e. till their case was called. They created such a situation that Counsels like me, who are on wrong side of sixty, were not in a position to conveniently enter in the Court Room No.13.

4. That otherwise too, as has been stated above, the number of seats allocated for sitting of the lawyers is quite inadequate, and the same requires to be increased for their convenient/comfortable sitting.

5. That in the aforesaid circumstances, I would give my suggestions as under:-

- (i) That the existing visitors enclosures should be bifurcated into two parts and one part should be added to the enclosure meant for lawyers.
- (ii) That there should be security guards deployed at the gate of each and every Court Room, who should permit the visitors to enter the visitors' gallery, just before their cases are likely to be called. For instance, if the case of a visitor is listed at Item No. 235, the security guard should permit him to enter visitors' gallery 10-15 minutes before the calling of the case, say, when Item No. 220 or 225 has been reached. This will reduce congestion in the Court Rooms.

The suggestions at No. (i) and (ii) have been given on the basis of the system/procedure being followed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. There is no congestion in the Court Rooms in Supreme Court on account of the influx of the visitors, who are accommodated only in the visitors' enclosure, to the extent space is available therein. They are not allowed to enter the other portion of the Court Room meant for lawyers. There also, the security guards permit the visitors to enter the visitors' gallery in Court Rooms, only a few minutes before the case of concerned litigant is about to be called for hearing.

Soliciting consideration in correct perspective.

Yours sincerely,

(H.C. ARORA)

ADVOCATE