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Dated: 23.3.2020

Chief Secretary,

Government of Punjab,

Punjab Civil Secretariat,

Chandigarh.

SUBJECT: Need to augment the strength of ventilators in Government Hospitals in Punjab to meet Corona virus challenge:

Through E-mail.

Dear Sir,

I appreciate Punjab Government for taking a bold decision to impose curfew in the entire State as an effective measure for isolating the people for preventing spread of Corona Virus. The decision of the Central Government to register national level companies for Corona tests is also equally appreciable. However, in view of the growing number of Corona positive cases in the State (which has reached 21 patients), the existing strength of ventilators in Government hospitals is too inadequate. Only 40 ventilators are available in the Government hospitals in the State of Punjab (20 ventilators each are available in Government Medical Colleges at Amritsar and Patiala). None of the district level hospitals has any ventilator. How many out of these 40 ventilators in the two Government Medical Colleges can be spared for Corona patients is anybody's guess. It is thus, extremely urgent to augment the strength of ventilators in the Government hospitals. In view of the emergency like situation developing very fast, the State Government must take immediate steps to augment the strength of ventilators to ensure that each district level hospital has atleast two ventilators, which may be utilized for treatment of Corona patients. If at all the State Government believes that Corona patients can be treated in private hospitals, then in order to act as a savior of victims of Corona, the Government should immediately notify a

scheme to bear entire expenditure for treatment of Corana patients in private hospitals recognized by the State Government, where around 200 ventilators are available, out of which more than half can not be spared for treatment of Corana patients.

Sir, these measures are necessary so that we may not be caught unaware when confronted with spurt in Corana cases. In my considered opinion, we have to purchase requisite number of ventilators on war footing to make such arrangements. I believe that none else than Captain Amrinder Singh knows how to accomplish some task on war footing.

I hope and trust to hear from you within two or three days on this issue which does not brook any delay.

With regards.

Yours Sincerely,

(H.C. ARORA)

ADVOCATE