

SUNAINA V/S STATE OF PUNJAB AND OTHERS

Present:- Petitioner in person.

Mr. Saurav Khurana, Addl. AG, Punjab.

Mr. Anurag Chopra, Addl. AG, Punjab.

Mr. F.S. Dhillia, Advocate for

Mr. Gagneshwar Walia, Advocate for respondent No.3.

Report has been submitted vide letter dated 31.01.2025 as regards the power breakdown at 11:44 AM on 24.01.2025 at Rajindra Hospital, Patiala, which is one of the premier hospitals in the District of Patiala which caters to large number of patients not only of Patiala, but also of adjoining districts. The power was eventually restored at 11:57 AM after 13 minutes and the backup started functioning at 11:46 AM manually.

The report submitted before this Court which is taken on record as Annexure-X is to the effect that there is no automatic switch-over system and switch-over from regular electric supply to the DG-Set had to be made manually which took time.

It is not surprising but shocking to note that in a public establishment like a hospital where electric breakup of even a few seconds can be fatal for certain patients, especially those on life support, the electric supply was disrupted for 13 minutes though the backup was available but the same took 2 minutes to be functional, because the same had to be operated manually.

In these modern times, it is of utmost importance that hospitals ought to have automatic switch-over from the normal electric supply line to DG-Set instantaneously.

Learned counsel for the State of Punjab is unable to satisfy us as to why this deficiency of automatic switch-over from the regular supply lines to the DG-Set was not available at the relevant point of time. Petitioner appearing in person has also submitted that recently again on 04.02.2025 another incident of power disruption took place.

The affidavit of the Chief Secretary of the State of Punjab is directed to be filed in this respect, which should also contain details of other public establishments which are equipped with automatic switch-over and why not the hospitals.

List on 25.02.2025.

(SHEEL NAGU)
CHIEF JUSTICE

February 06, 2025
Naveen

(SUMEET GOEL)
JUDGE