

Bhisham Kinger
Vs.
State of Punjab and others

Present : Mr. Bhisham Kinger – Petitioner in person.

Mr. Anurag Chopra, Addl. Advocate General, Punjab.

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1. Learned counsel for the State of Punjab has filed an affidavit dated 17.02.2025, duly sworn by the Chief Secretary to Govt. of Punjab. The same is taken on record.
2. A bare perusal of affidavit of the Chief Secretary, filed today, shows a dismal picture of incumbency and vacancy position in Civil Hospital, Malerkotla, where against 39 sanctioned posts of Medical Officer (General), only 02 Medical Officers are presently posted.
3. It is not disputed by learned counsel for the State of Punjab that out of 225 Medical Officers, who have recently joined pursuant to the recruitment, which took place vide advertisement issued in the month of August, 2024, not even one has been posted at Civil Hospital, Malerkotla.
4. Civil Hospital, Malerkotla, which has 39 sanctioned posts of Medical Officer (General), is functioning on the strength of only 02 Medical Officers.
5. From the above, it is obvious that the sovereign function of the State of providing free medical aid to the patients is not being discharged by the State in its true sense.
6. In view of the aforesaid, Chief Secretary to the Government of Punjab, is directed to file an additional affidavit, explaining as to why the said

sanctioned posts, which were increased from 10 to 39 Medical Officers, have not been filled up in the last so many years.

7. Looking to the gravity of situation, the Chief Secretary to the Government of Punjab, is directed to appear in person virtually before this Court on the next date of hearing and explain the default.

8. As regards deficiencies in the medical infrastructure, by referring to paragraph 3 (j) of the reply filed by way of affidavit of the Senior Medical Officer, Civil Hospital, Malerkotla, it is pointed out by the petitioner, who is appearing in person, that even the facilities of CT scan and MRI are not available in Civil Hospital, Malerkotla, as the patients requiring these facilities are referred to Civil Hospital, Sangrur. The additional affidavit, directed to be filed by the Chief Secretary, is also expected to contain an explanation as regards the aforesaid deficiency.

9. It is well known that CT scan and MRI are no more facilities which are available only in big Hospitals, but should be available in Civil Hospitals at District level as well as Sub Division level.

10. List on 04.03.2025.

11. To be taken up at 10.00 AM.

(SHEEL NAGU)
CHIEF JUSTICE

February 18, 2025
narotam

(H.S. GREWAL)
JUDGE