

**IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF PUNJAB AND  
HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH**

CWP (PIL) No. 9462 of 2016

H.C. Arora, Advocate and another

.....Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others

..Respondents

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Deponent

*Jasvinder Kaur*

(Jasvinder Kaur Sidhu)

Secretary to Govt. of Punjab  
Department of Home Affairs & Justice

Place: Chandigarh

Date: 7.2.2024

**IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATES OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA  
AT CHANDIGARH**

**CWP (PIL) No. 9462 of 2016**

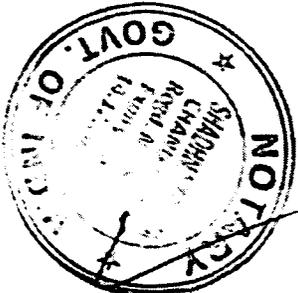
1. H.C. Arora, Advocate S/o Late Sh. Sunder Dass, R/o H.No. 2299, Sector-44/C, Chandigarh.
2. Mitter Sain Goel, S/o Sh. Sehaj Ram Gupta, resident of 2297, Street-5, Upkar Nagar, Ludhiana.

**.....Petitioners in Person**

**Versus**

1. State of Punjab, through its Secretary Personnel, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh.
2. Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh.
3. Principal Secretary, Department of Home Affairs and Justice, Government of Punjab, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh.
4. Registrar General, Punjab & Haryana High Court, Chandigarh.

**.....Respondents**



**Short Reply by way of affidavit  
of Jasvinder Kaur Sidhu,  
Secretary to Govt. of Punjab,  
Department of Home Affairs  
and Justice, for and on behalf of  
Respondent No. 1 to 3.**

**RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH**

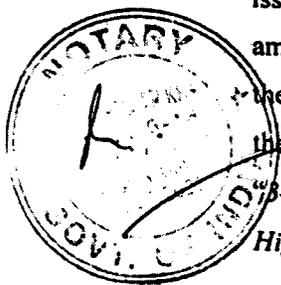
I, the above named deponent, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under: -

Deponent is fully conversant with the facts of the case and legally authorised to file the present affidavit and hence is filing this affidavit.

1. That in the present civil writ petition, the prayer of the petitioners is for quashing the letter dated 5.2.1991 (Annexure

P-2) issued by the Registrar of this Hon'ble Court, directing all the District and Sessions Judges in the State of Punjab to continue English as an official language of the Courts, the same being in violation of the provisions of the 2008 Amendment to the Punjab Official Language Act, 1967 (Annexure P-1), which mandates that on expiry of 6 months from the date of enforcement of the said amendment, only the Punjabi language shall be the official language of all the Courts in the State of Punjab; and further prayed for directing the respondents no. 1 to 4 to ensure the implementation of the mandate contained in 2008 Amendment to the Punjab Official Language Act, 1967, (Annexure P-1), by directing all the Civil and Criminal Courts (subordinate to the Hon'ble High Court, Revenue Courts and Rent Tribunals, and all other Tribunals set up by Punjab Government), to do all work in accordance with the said provision by using only Punjabi as official language, as read with various other relevant provisions contained in the Civil Procedure Code, 1908 as well as Criminal Procedure Code, 1973; and to provide the requisite infrastructure to all such Courts and Tribunals for doing all work in Punjabi language; and further prayed for restraining the operation of the letter, Annexure P-2 dated 5.2.1991, during the pendency of the instant Civil Writ Petition;

2. That the State Government has enacted the necessary legislation namely The Punjab Official Language (Amendment) Act, 2008 (Punjab Act No. 27 of 2008) and issued notification dated 05.11.2008 (Annexure P-1), making amendments in the said legislation for the implementation of the Punjabi language. The relevant extract of Section 3-A of the said Act is reproduced here as under:-
- "3-A (1) in all civil and criminal courts, subordinate to the High Court of Punjab and Haryana, all revenue courts and rent tribunals or any other court or tribunal, constituted by the State Government, work in such courts and tribunals shall be done in Punjabi....."*



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3. That the Punjab Vidhan Sabha unanimously passed an official resolution dated 02.03.2020 for the implementation of the Punjabi language in the State of Punjab and recommended that the judgments in the Courts of Punjab be passed in Punjabi language. A copy of the resolution dated 02.03.2020 is annexed as Annexure R-1.
4. That the Government of Punjab is committed to implement the notification dated 5.11.2008, for work in all the Courts, as per the said notification, within the Jurisdiction of the State of Punjab.
5. That it is submitted that the answering respondent though is filing the short reply at this stage, however, undertakes to file a detailed reply as and when directed by this Hon'ble Court to do so or in case the need arises at any later stage.

Hence, in view of the submissions made above, it is respectfully prayed that the present Writ Petition may kindly be allowed and the notification dated 05.11.2008 of Department of Legal and Legislative Affairs of Government of Punjab be enforced in the Courts within the jurisdiction of the State of Punjab.

Identify the deponent who has signed the document in my presence  
Signature

DEPONENT

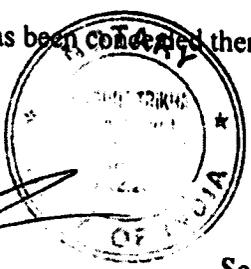
*Jasvinder Kaur*  
(Jasvinder Kaur Sidhu)  
Secretary to Govt. Of Punjab  
Department of Home Affairs and Justice

Place: Chandigarh  
Dated: 07/2/24

Verification:-

Verified that the contents mentioned in Paras 1 to 5 of the affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and as per information derived from the official record which I believe to be correct. No part of it is false and nothing has been concealed therein.

Certified that the Affidavit/Sworn Statement has been read over and explained to the deponent who has signed the same and he/she has declared that the contents are true and correct to the best of his/her knowledge and belief.



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DEPONENT  
*Jasvinder Kaur*  
(Jasvinder Kaur Sidhu)  
Secretary to Govt. Of Punjab  
Department of Home Affairs and Justice

Place: Chandigarh  
Dated:

ATTESTED AND IDENTIFIED

SHADHNA TRIKHA  
NOTARY, Chandigarh

07/2/24

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**OFFICIAL RESOLUTION (AS AMENDED) CARRIED  
UNANIMOUSLY BY THE PUNJAB VIDHAN SABHA  
ON 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH, 2020**

" That this House welcomes every positive step taken by the State Government to promote Punjabi the mother tongue of Punjab and appreciates the State Government for its notification issued for giving priority to Punjabi language out of the languages to be written for information at each and every place of public importance

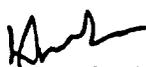
This House also recommends to the State Government to enact necessary law alongwith the proper arrangements to check the activities or steps to be taken against the promotion of Punjabi language by an individual or undertaking.

This House also recommends to the State Government to take necessary steps for teaching Punjabi language as a compulsory subject in all Government and Non-government Educational Institutions of the State till 10<sup>th</sup> Class.

This House also recommends that the judgements in the Courts of Punjab be passed in Punjabi language.

This House also recommends that the Punjab Government should make efforts for the implememntation of Punjabi language in Chandigarh also."

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Superintendent Grade-1  
Judicial Branch  
Punjab Civil Secretariat  
Chandigarh