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Dated: 4.3.2019

To,

1. Captain Amrinder Singh, Chief Minister Punjab, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh.
2. Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab, Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh.

SUBJECT: Financial Assistance to Maur Mandi Blast Victims.

By Speed Post/E-mail

Dear Sirs,

I am enclosing herewith a photograph of the news report published in "Dainik Bhaskar" of today (4.3.2019), which reveals that the victims of Maur Mandi Blast, which took place about two years ago, have not been given any financial assistance so far by the State Government. It is pertinent to note that one of the victims, namely, Jaskaran Singh has been burnt to the extent of 60%, and he is not in a position to walk. The residents of Maur Mandi took out a procession yesterday and they carried Sh. Jaskaran Singh on a cot and had confrontation with the police also.

In this connection I may submit that it is the duty of the State Government to pay compensation to such victims of crime. The Victims Compensation Policy notified by the State Government provides for payment of compensation to victims of certain categories of crimes. However, unfortunately, no provision has been made therein for payment of compensation to victims of bomb blast like Maur Mandi Blast (referred to above). It is to be emphasized that under Section 357-A of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973, it is the duty of the State Government to provide compensation to the victims of crime, and the failure of the State Government to provide compensation to the victims of Maur Mandi Blast is unfortunate.

I would therefore, request you to pay adequate compensation to victims of Maur Mandi Blast, who have suffered serious injuries, including Sh. Jarkaran Singh (whose body has been burnt to the extent of 60%).

I may also bring it to your kind notice that National Legal Services Authority (NLSA), New Delhi, has notified a policy captioned "Compensation Scheme for Women Victims/Survivors of Sexual Assault and other Crimes-2018". Although the aforesaid policy is confined only to women victims of crime, yet it would be the requirement of justice and equity that the provisions of the said policy be applied for giving compensation to the male victims of crime also till appropriate policy is framed by NLSA, or by the State Government itself. If the provisions of the said policy were to be applied to the case of Sh. Jaskaran Singh, he is entitled to compensation up to Rs. 4 Lakhs on account of permanent disability of 60 %. Besides, he being a person whose body has been burnt to the extent of 60%, he is entitled to compensation up to Rs. 8 Lakh since the policy states that if the case of a victim is covered under one or more category of the Schedule attached with the said policy, such victim is to be paid combined value of the compensation. Thus, on the basis of the aforesaid principle, Sh. Jaskaran Singh is entitled to compensation ranging between Rs.7 Lakhs to Rs.12 Lakhs, depending upon the facts and circumstances, to be assessed/computed by the Competent Authority.

I would therefore, request you to consider the case of Sh. Jaskaran Singh, the aforesaid victim of Maur Mandi Bomb Blast, for releasing to him compensation to the tune of Rs. 10 Lakh, and also provide for his free treatment in a reputed Government Hospital, as is being extended to the victims of acid attack, under the various policies notified by the State Government. In case the needful is not done within a period of 15 days from the date of receipt of this notice by you, which is being sent by email also, in that event, I shall be left with no other alternative except to file appropriate proceedings in the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh for redressal of legitimate grievance of Shri Jaskaran Singh, Maur Mandi Blast victim.

Meanwhile, please acknowledge receipt of this notice.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely,

(H.C. ARORA)
ADVOCATE