

ITEM NO.61

COURT NO.4

SECTION PIL-W

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Writ Petition(s)(Civil) No(s). 13029/1985

M.C. MEHTA

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

[TO BE TAKEN UP AT 12:00 NOON] IN RE: COLOR CODED STICKERS AND IN RE: SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND IN RE: VEHICULAR POLLUTION AND (1) IA NOS. 61328/2020, 237378/2023, 231348/2024 AND 61330/2020 (APPLNS. FOR DIRECTIONS AND EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. ON BEHALF OF SIDDHARTH NAYAK) (2) IA NOS. 18080/2025 AND 18082/2025 (APPLNS. FOR INTERVENTION AND DIRECTION ON BEHALF OF ALL INDIA MOTOR VEHICLE SECURITY ASSOCIATION) (3) IA NOS. 66627 AND 67363/2025 (APPLICATION FOR DIRECTION AND APPLICATION FOR IMPLEADMENT ON BEHALF OF HIGH SECURITY REGISTRATION PLATE (HSRP) MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA) (4) IA NO. 21578/2025 (APPLICATION FOR INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF ASSOCIATION OF REGISTRATION PLATES MANUFACTURERS OF INDIA(REGD.)) NAME OF THE FOLLOWING ADVOCATES MAY BE TREATED TO HAVE BEEN SHOWN IN THE LIST: MR. HARISH N. SALVE, SR. ADVOCATE (A.C.) MS. APARAJITA SINGH, SR. ADVOCATE (A.C.) MS. UTTARA BABBAR, SR. ADVOCATE (A.C.) MR. A.D.N. RAO, SR. ADVOCATE (A.C.) MS. SHIBANI GHOSH, ADVOCATE (A.C.) MR. SIDDHARTHA CHOWDHURY, ADVOCATE (A.C.) MR. G.S. MAKKER, MR. AMRISH KUMAR, MR. M.K. MARORIA, MR. SANJAY KR. VISEN, MR. SUDEEP KUMAR, MR. KARAN SHARMA, MR. SANDEEP KR. JHA, MR. JYOTI MENDIRATTA, MR. RAHUL KHURANA, MR. ANIL KUMAR, MR. A. VENAYAGAM BALAN, M/S. LEX REGIS LAW OFFICES, MR. E.C. AGRAWALA, ADVOCATES

Date : 09-04-2025 This petition was called on for hearing today.

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HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE UJJAL BHUYAN

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UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

I.A. No.21578/2025 - IN RE: COLOUR CODED STICKERS AND HIGH SECURITY REGISTRATION PLATES

1. Firstly, we are dealing with the issue of implementation of the directions issued by this Court regarding Colour Coded Stickers and High Security Registration Plates under the Order dated 27th January, 2025. The Government of India has filed an affidavit giving details on this behalf. As far as HSRP affixation on existing old vehicles registered before 1st April, 2019 is concerned, except for Andaman and Nicobar, Delhi, Chandigarh and Sikkim, the compliance percentage is poor.
2. We direct the Union of India to call for the compliance figures as on 30th June, 2025 from all the States and place compliance before this Court.
3. As regards vehicles registered after 1st April, 2019, except for the States of Madhya Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, substantial compliance has been made by the States and Union Territories who have submitted reports. However, the performance of Madhya Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir is

less than 50%.

4. We, therefore, direct the States of Madhya Pradesh as well as Jammu and Kashmir to submit a fresh compliance report by 30th June, 2025 to the Union of India. We may also notice here that though a specific direction was issued by this Court for taking action under Section 192(1) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the States have not reported compliance. We direct the States to report compliance by sending a report to the Government of India by 30th June, 2025.

5. Our attention is invited to the fact that 14 States or Union Territories have not filed compliance reports. We direct States/Union Territories to submit compliance report by 30th June, 2025.

6. Our attention is invited to Rule 50 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 which refers to the third registration mark. Hereafter, while submitting compliance reports, the States and Union Territories must report to the Central Government, compliance of 2018 Order as well as clause (iv) of sub-rule (1) of Rule 50 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

7. At this stage, learned senior counsel submitted that a direction which is issued in paragraph 13 of the order dated 27th January, 2025 which is applicable to NCR States

should be extended to other States. For non-compliance of 2018 Rules read with Rule 50 of the Central Motors Vehicles Rules, 1989, we will have to give a reasonable time to the States before we pass such drastic orders. This issue will be considered after three months depending upon the compliances reported by the various State Governments and Union Territories.

I.A. No.231348/2024

8. As far as this I.A. is concerned, we will consider this I.A. when we deal with compliance of the directions issued today on the aspect of 2018 Order as well as Rule 50.

I.A. No.66627/2025 and 67363/2025

9. The High Courts are not precluded from dealing with the issue involved in the pending petitions before High Court, provided the same do not relate in any manner to the issues which are considered by this Court. It is obvious issues of challenge to 2018 Order and Rule 50 of the Central Motors Vehicles Rules, 1989 cannot be gone into by any High Courts.

With that clarification I.A. No.66627/2027 is disposed of.

10. Needless to add that the High Courts while dealing with the pending cases should ensure that they do not deal

with the issues subject matter of directions issued by this Court from time to time.

I.A. No.21578/2025

11. The application is disposed of in the light of order passed today in I.A. No.66627/2025.

I.A. No.18080/2025 and I.A. No.18082/2025

12. In view of orders passed by this Court for implementation of Rule 50 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules and 2018 Order, it is not necessary to entertain these applications and the same are disposed of.

IN RE: VEHICULAR POLLUTION

13. Complied affidavits and responses in respect of vehicular pollution read with order dated 20th February, 2025 have been placed on record. Learned Amicus Curiae to submit a note on this aspect so that appropriate directions can be issued. This issue will be considered on 06th May 2025

14. Learned ASG on instructions states that as regards the direction issued by this Court earlier directing that vehicles acquired by the Governments and Public Sector Organizations should be electric vehicles, a proposal will be submitted by end of April, 2025 before this Court. We will consider the said proposal on 06th May 2025

15. While we consider the issue of vehicular pollution,

note dated 17th January, 2025 submitted by learned Amicus Curiae will also be considered

16. Learned ASG has flagged the issue of large number of end of life vehicles which are plying in Delhi NCR region. We will consider the same on 06.05.2025 and issue appropriate directions.

REMOTE SENSING

17. At this stage our attention is invited to the order dated 26th July, 2024 directing MoRTH to re-consider the issue pertaining the to implementation of Remote Sensing Devices in addition to the Pollution Under Control Test as a measure to effectively curb vehicular pollution. Union of India has sought time of 10 to 12 months to complete the study. These issues are of vital importance qua curbing vehicular pollution. Therefore, we direct the Union of India to complete the study within a period of three months from today.

(KAVITA PAHUJA)
ASTT. REGISTRAR-cum-PS

(AVGV RAMU)
COURT MASTER (NSH)