

'Tainted', but cops continue to serve

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

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AS many as 1,398 serving Punjab Police officials are facing prosecution in criminal cases. Out of these, 505 are under investigation, 863 are facing trial and the remaining 30 have been convicted by the lower courts.

The information has been obtained by Resurgence India, a Ludhiana-based NGO, under the Right to Information Act (RTI).

Taking note of the information, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has issued notices to Principal Secretary, Department of Home Affairs and Justice, Punjab and the state's Di-

rector General of Police.

These 1398 police personnel were charge-sheeted/convicted of crimes such as murder, rape, abduction, robbery, custodial torture, forgery, corruption, cheating, smuggling and drug trafficking.

Advocate A P S Shergill, counsel for the petitioner has demanded directions to the state of Punjab to dismiss or suspend or transfer such police officers after applying the Punjab Police Rules, 1934, and the Punjab Police Act, 2007.

The petitioner has alleged inordinate delay in completion of investigations by the police.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NGO puts data against Punjab Police before HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chandigarh: A serious embarrassment for the Punjab Police is in the offing with the Punjab and Haryana High Court on Tuesday issuing notice to state home secretary and the DGP for February 10 on a PIL filed by Resurgence India, a Ludhiana-based NGO, raising the issue of tainted cops.

The petitioner submitted before the court a comprehensive report, dated April 27, 2008, containing data regarding the number of policemen facing criminal charges.

Resurgence India's counsel prayed for directions to the home secretary and DGP as also the state of Punjab to take "meaningful and concrete steps to review all cases where Rules 16.2, 16.17, 16.18 and 16.19 of the Punjab Police Rules-1934 and section 13(2) of the Punjab Police Act-07 are applicable and to forthwith dismiss or suspend or transfer police personnel involved in criminal cases".

The NGO also sought directions to the respondents to draft a comprehensive report on the matter within three months. The PIL, based on the information obtained under RTI, revealed that 1,398 Punjab Police personnel were facing prosecution in criminal cases.

"Analysis revealed that police personnel are involved in all sorts. Out of 1,398 personnel, 505 are still facing investigation while 863 are undertrial and remaining 70 have been convicted," the PIL read.

This is not all. There had been inordinate delay in completion of investigation by police, the plea added. There were three cases under investigation for more than 15 years.

As if this was not enough, the progress of trial too left much to be desired, the NGO asserted. In 289 cases, even the first trial was not over even after

the lapse of five years. The most shocking revelation was about several cops who despite facing criminal charges managed to get promoted. "Out of 44 such personnel, who got promotion despite facing prosecution in criminal charges, 26 are gazetted officers," the PIL read.

Importantly, according to Resurgence's data, 54 gazetted officers were facing criminal charges. Of these, three held the rank of DGP, one of ADGP and three of IG. Moreover, 28 DSPs were also in the hall of infamy. Coming to non-gazetted cops, 1,344 of them were facing criminal charges. "The least the government can do is to remove tainted cops from field jobs," the NGO said.

