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## Court demands explanation on allegation of social discrimination

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Expressing serious concern on the issue of social boycott of schedule caste families by the upper caste community in Yula village in Kinnaur district, the Himachal Pradesh High Court Friday directed the state government to explain its stand on the allegations raised in a petition on this issue. The court passed this order on a petition filed by a local resident, Pyare Lal of Yula village wherein he alleged that all the schedule caste families are being socially boycotted thereby depriving them of grazing their cattle in the common field.

The First Bench comprising the Chief Justice Kurian Joseph and Justice VK Sharma further directed the Superintendent of Police, Kinnaur to initiate appropriate steps for maintaining law and order in the area and also impleaded the deputy commissioner and district welfare officers as respondents in this case.

The petitioner also alleged that various representations were sent to concerned authorities which however failed to evoke any response. The state has failed to take any appropriate action against the erring persons, the petitioner claimed. The court directed the respondents to explain their stand on or before 31st of December, 2010.

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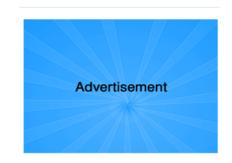
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