

H.C. ARORA

ADVOCATE

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PUNJAB & HARYANA HIGH COURT

EMAILS ADDRESS:-

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Dated: 15.12.2019

To,

1. Advisor to Chandigarh Administration,
Sector-9, Chandigarh
2. Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab,
Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh
3. Chief Secretary , Government of Haryana,
Haryana Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh.

SUBJECT: Demand for thorough investigation into 4 accidental deaths of Zomato delivery boys in Mohali/Chandigarh/Panchkula, during last 7 months.

BY E-MAIL

Dear Sirs,

I am appalled at the news reports appearing in print media that during last 7 months, at least four delivery boys of "Zomato", a fast food delivery chain of restaurants, have been killed in accidents in Chandigarh, Mohali and Panchkula. The detailed particulars of these four deaths are as under:-

16th September, 2019: Zomato worker Harjit Singh, aged 25 years, died after a car speeding out of PCA Stadium, Mohali, crashed into his motor cycle.

April 20th, 2019: Zomato delivery boy, Jaspreet Sharma, aged 20 years, died after an SUV ran him over at the traffic lights of Sector-14 and 15 in Chandigarh.

September 10th, 2019: Zomato worker, Keshav, aged 20 years, died on the Kharar Highway, when a crane crashed into his motor cycle during an abrupt turn.

November 21st, 2019: In Panchkula, Zomato lost its fourth delivery boy, Sunny, aged about 23 years, who died in a hit and run accident on the dividing road of sectors 12-A and 14.

You will kindly appreciate that the matter is very serious. Just for earning two square meals a day, these poor delivery boys have to run against time for delivering the food at their destination to the consumers, within a fixed time frame, before it turns cold. . They are under extreme pressure. They drive recklessly, and are resorting to undertaking and overtaking every now and then, by compromising their safety and also the safety of those travelling in other vehicles. The time bound delivery system of Zomato etc. hastens such accidents which result into untimely deaths. Even in news papers of today (15.12.2019) there is a full-page advertisement by Zomato claiming that their delivery boys are never late. They further offer **“Zomao On-Time Or Free: The Wait is over !”**

In my considered opinion, Zomato is squarely responsible for such deaths, which compels its delivery boys to run against time, even at the cost of their life. The Traffic Police of Mohali, Panchkula and Chandigarh is also equally responsible for such deaths, as they have never challaned such delivery boys who violate speed limits and drive their motor cycles dangerously for dangerous driving.

I would therefore, call upon all of you to order investigation by a Joint SIT of Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh, and also to ensure payment of adequate compensation from Zomato to the dependent family members of the four delivery boys of Zomato mentioned above, who have been killed in the prime of their youth while on duty of their employer, namely Zomato, which is affluent enough to pay such compensation. In case the needful is not done within a period of ten days, in that event, I shall be left with no other option except to file a PIL in the Hon’ble High Court, for seeking redressal of my legitimate grievance, in public interest. Meanwhile, Zomato may kindly be restrained from running the “Zomato On-Time Or Free” programme, for saving precious lives of the Zomato delivery boys.

Meanwhile, please acknowledge receipt of this Notice.

(H.C. ARORA)

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