

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH**

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Civil Writ Petition No.7928 of 2015

Date of Decision: April 29, 2015

Gram Panchayat, Nangal, District Mohindergarh, Haryana

...Petitioner

Versus

Union of India and others

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AUGUSTINE GEORGE MASIH

Present: Mr. Aftab Singh Khara, Advocate
for the petitioner.

AUGUSTINE GEORGE MASIH, J. (ORAL)

Petitioner has approached this Court praying for issuance of a writ of mandamus directing the official respondents to change the name of the Railway Station situated in village Nangal as Nangal Railway Station instead of Ateli Railway Station situated in District Mahendergarh.

It is the contention of the counsel for the petitioner that the land, which was acquired for setting up of a Railway Station, which has been named as Ateli was in fact that of village Nangal and, therefore, there was no reason as to why the name of the Railway Station should not have been 'Nangal' instead of 'Ateli'. He further contends that on the basis of the Railway and revenue record that the land actually belonged to the said village Nangal. Counsel contends that as per the Policy of Government of India dated 02.07.1980, the name of the Railway Station can be changed on the recommendation of the State Government concerned with the concurrence of Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. He, therefore, contends that the name of the Railway Station can be changed.

The petitioner-Gram Panchayat had been requesting the respondents to

change the name of the Railway Station but the same has not yet been so done. Counsel has also referred to the representation dated 21.05.2014 (Annexure P-1) addressed to the respondents in this regard.

On a question, which has been put by the Court as to what legal, much less, a Constitutional right is available to the petitioner for seeking the change of name of the Railway Station and that too at this belated stage as it is admitted by the counsel for the petitioner that the name of the Railway Station Ateli was given more than 100 years prior, he could not point out any such thing except that he has referred to Section 3(4) of The Railways Act, 1989. The said sub-section reads as follows:-

Railway Administrations

3. Zonal Railways.

(4) The Central Government may, by notification, abolish any Zonal Railway or constitute any new Zonal Railway out of any existing Zonal Railway or Zonal Railways, change the name or headquarters of any Zonal Railway or determine the areas in respect of which a Zonal Railway shall exercise jurisdiction.

A perusal of the same would show that it does not deal with the naming of the Railway Stations, in fact, as is apparent from the heading of Section 3 it relates to the Zonal Railways only. The 'change of name or headquarters' as has been referred to in this Section only relates to the Zonal Railway and does not relate to the Railway Stations. Even if it is assumed that there is a Policy for change of name of the Railway Station, which is dated 02.07.1980 (Annexure P-3) but that also is applicable under a situation where the State Government recommends for the change of the name and that too after the concurrence of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Admittedly, till date the State Government has not recommended the change of the name of the Railway Station from 'Ateli' to

'Nangal'.

In view of the above, finding no merit in the present writ petition, the same stands dismissed.

April 29, 2015
Puneet

(AUGUSTINE GEORGE MASIH)
JUDGE