

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH**CWP No.9978 of 2016**
Date of decision:19.05.2016

Smt. Neeta Rani

...Petitioner

Versus

The Union of India and others

...Respondents

CORAM: Hon'ble Mr. Justice Rakesh Kumar JainPresent: Mr. Vikram Bali, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Rakesh Kumar Jain, J.

The petitioner has prayed for a direction to the respondents to renew her passport expeditiously. It is alleged that the petitioner was known as Balbir Kaur before her marriage. She changed her name as Neeta Rani after her marriage. She applied for passport in 2005 which was issued to her on 30.12.2005 and was valid till 29.12.2015. The petitioner visited USA on 10.01.2007 and when she applied for renewal of passport in 2015, she has been asked orally by the passport authority to file an affidavit to the effect that she had applied for passport in the year 1990 as Balbir Kaur and in 2005 as Neeta Rani and she is the same person.

The grievance of the petitioner is that she had never applied for passport as Balbir Kaur in 1990 and as such, she is unable to file the affidavit, as required by the passport authority. She has, thus,

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approached this Court for a direction to the respondents to renew her passport.

I have heard learned counsel for the petitioner and perused the record from which it is found that the petitioner was informed to furnish explanation regarding particulars of the passport of Balbir Kaur and since the petitioner did not give any response, therefore, her case was closed on 03.11.2015. If the petitioner had not applied for passport in 1990 as Balbir Kaur, as stated, and the said Balbir Kaur was somebody else, the petitioner is given liberty to approach the passport authority with an affidavit and relevant details/evidence to prove that she had applied for passport only when her name was changed as Neeta Rani after her marriage. If such evidence is produced by the petitioner along with her affidavit to the passport authority within a period of one month, the passport authority is directed to decide the issue in regard to renewal of passport of the petitioner within one month thereafter.

With these observations, the present petition is hereby disposed of.

May 19, 2016
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(Rakesh Kumar Jain)
Judge