

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CWP No. 5247 of 2018 (O&M)

Date of Decision : 13.03.2018

Nanak Singh Sarpanch and others

...Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others

...Respondents

CORAM: *HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AJAY KUMAR MITTAL*
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL

Present: Mr. Puneet Jindal, Senior Advocate with
Ms. Neha Anand Mahajan, Advocate for the petitioners.

Ajay Kumar Mittal, J.(Oral)

1. The prayer in this petition, filed by way of Public Interest Litigation under Articles 226/227 of the Constitution of India, is for issuance of a writ in the nature of certiorari for setting-aside the decision of respondents No. 1 to 3, whereby, the Punjab Cabinet had decided to shut down Sewa Kendras in the State because of financial stringency, thereby depriving vast populace of the State including villages of the petitioners of various public utility. Further a writ of mandamus has been sought directing the respondents to continue providing public utility services available to the residents of Punjab State, especially in rural areas in respect of various Sewa Kendras.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioners submitted that he may be allowed to withdraw the present writ petition with liberty to approach the concerned authority by filing a representation at the first instance for the

relief claimed in the present writ petition. However, a prayer was made that time bound direction be issued to the said authority to decide the same after affording an opportunity of hearing to the petitioners and by passing a speaking order in accordance with law.

3. After hearing learned counsel for the petitioners, perusing the present writ petition and without commenting anything on the merits of the case, the present writ petition is disposed of by granting liberty to the petitioners to file a detailed and comprehensive representation, raising all the pleas as raised in the present writ petition before the concerned authority. In case, such a representation is filed, the same shall be decided by the said authority by passing a speaking order and after affording an opportunity of hearing to the petitioners expeditiously in accordance with law.

(AJAY KUMAR MITTAL)
JUDGE

March 13, 2018
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(ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned? *Yes/No*
Whether reportable? *Yes/No*