

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA ATCHANDIGARH

CWP-17465-2020

Date of Decision: December 22, 2020

SURINDER PAL

..... PETITIONER(s)

Versus

DIRECTORATE FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND ANOTHER

..... RESPONDENT(s)

CORAM:- HON'BLE MRS.JUSTICE LISA GILL

Present: Mr. Manuj Nagrath, Advocate for the petitioner.

Ms. Simran Grewal, Asst. A.G., Punjab.

LISA GILL, J.

This matter is being taken up for hearing through video conferencing due to the outbreak of pandemic, COVID-19.

The petitioner is aggrieved of suspension of his license for running a fair price shop. It is submitted that the license has been suspended for over 90 days without a reasonable opportunity to defend his matter. It is submitted that in terms of proviso to Clause 15 of the Punjab Public Distribution System (Licensing and Control) Order, 2016, licensing authority may suspend a license without giving reasonable opportunity to the licensee to defend his case for a period not exceeding 90 days, during the pendency or in contemplation of the proceedings for cancellation of his license.

It is brought to my notice by learned counsel for the State, that petitioner's appeal against order dated 24.02.2020 (Annexure P-9), suspending his license, is still pending.

Keeping in view the facts and circumstances as above but without expressing any opinion on the merits of this case, this writ petition is disposed of with a direction to the competent authority to decide the petitioner's appeal challenging order dated 24.02.2020, expeditiously and preferably within three weeks, by passing a speaking order, in accordance with law.

22.12.2020

Sunil

**(LISA GILL)
JUDGE**

Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes/No

Whether reportable: Yes/No