

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

CWP-23804-2017

Date of decision: 14.2.2020

Kanwaljit Kaur**.....Petitioner.****vs.****State of Punjab and others****.....Respondents.****CORAM: - HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY KUMAR**

Present: - Mr. N.P.S.Mann, Advocate for the petitioner.

Ms. Simran Grewal, Assistant Advocate General, Punjab.

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Sanjay Kumar, J. (ORAL)

The grievance of the petitioner, a former Sarpanch of the Gram Panchayat of Village Ruriwala, Block Chohla Sahib, District Tarn Taran, was that, in relation to the fresh inquiry initiated against her, the Director, Rural Development and Panchayats Department, Punjab, the second respondent, granted stay of the said inquiry on 8.1.2016 but thereafter vacated the same on 11.8.2017.

It was her case that initiation of the inquiry was not in accordance with Section 216 of the Punjab Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, and that she had already been given a clean chit in two earlier inquiries.

By order dated 13.10.2017 passed in this writ petition, this Court directed stay of further proceedings against the petitioner.

While so, the State authorities filed a written statement through the Block Development and Panchayat Officer, Naushehra Pannuan, District Tarn Taran, wherein he stated that the inquiry against the petitioner had been initiated on the strength of the complaint made by

one Gurbachan Singh, but thereafter he submitted affidavit dated 17.10.2017 withdrawing his earlier complaint and declaring that no misappropriation had been committed by the Gram Panchayat in relation to the grants received for development works in the Village.

In this regard, it is also relevant to note that the petitioner was subjected to two inquiries earlier. The Director, Rural Development and Panchyats Department, Punjab, vide order dated 4.10.2013, held that the allegations against the petitioner were not proved. Similarly, the Special Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayats, Government of Punjab, gave her a clean chit, vide order dated 20.10.2014, in relation to the utilization of the grant of Rs. 11.75 lakh for construction and improvement of the roads in the Village.

In the light of the afore-stated developments, the grievance of the petitioner stands settled as the State authorities themselves do not wish to proceed further with the inquiry.

Recording the stand taken by the State authorities, the writ petition is accordingly disposed of.

No order as to costs.

(SANJAY KUMAR)
JUDGE

14.2.2020

preeti

whether speaking/non speaking

yes/no

whether reportable/non reportable

yes/no