

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

CRM-M-17120-2021 (O&M)

Date of decision: 23.04.2021

Raj Rani and others

...Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARNARESH SINGH GILL

Present:- Mr. Neeraj Madaan, Advocate for the petitioners.

HARNARESH SINGH GILL, J. (ORAL)

Case is taken up for hearing through video conferencing.

By way of the present petition, the petitioners seek directions to respondents No.2 and 3 to conduct a fair investigation and take an appropriate legal action against respondents No.10 and 11, as despite having been found guilty of embezzling the Panchayat funds, no action has been taken against the said respondent till date.

Learned counsel for the petitioners submits that the petitioners and respondent No. 10 are the co-villagers. Petitioner No.1 is the present Sarpanch, whereas respondent No.10 is the ex-Sarpanch of the village. She had embezzled the Panchayat funds to the tune of Rs.4,83,000/- in a fraudulent and dishonest manner during her tenure as a Sarpanch. It is further submitted that vide letter dated 09.03.2020 (Annexure P-3), the Block Development and Panchayat Officer, Guruharsahai, wrote to the District

Development and Panchayat Officer, Ferozepur, to take disciplinary/police action against respondent No. 10 and recover the amount of Rs.4,83,000/- along with interest @18% from her. It is further submitted that vide letter dated 08.02.2021 (Annexure P-4), the Divisional Deputy Director, Rural Development and Panchayat, Ferozepur, had directed the Block Development and Panchayat Officer, Guruharsahai, to initiate action against respondents No. 10 and 11 regarding recovery of the said amount at the earliest and in case of her failure to do so, to initiate police action against her. However, till date neither the aforesaid amount has been recovered from respondent No.10 nor any action has been taken against her.

Notice of motion to respondents No.1 and 4 only, at this stage.

On the asking of this Court, Mr. Avtar Singh Sandhu, Addl. A.G. Punjab, accepts notice on behalf of the said respondents.

After considering the submissions made by the learned counsel for the petitioners, this Court feels it appropriate to direct respondent No.4- Director Rural Development and Panchayats, Department of Rural Development and Panchayat, Vikas Bhawan, Sector-62 (Phase-8), S.A.S. Nagar, Mohali, to look into the matter and take appropriate action, as per law.

Disposed of accordingly.

(HARNARESH SINGH GILL)
JUDGE

23.04.2021

Mangal Singh

Whether reasoned/speaking?
Whether reportable?

Yes/No
Yes/No