

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

CWP-12645-2021 (O&M)

Date of Decision: July 14, 2021

BALBIR SINGH

..... PETITIONER(s)

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB AND OTHERS

..... RESPONDENT(s)

CORAM:- HON'BLE MRS.JUSTICE LISA GILL

Present: Mr. Chirag Girdhar, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Sahil Sharma, Dy. 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.

Grievance set forth by petitioner is that he was awarded some work by the respondent-Department, which was executed to the satisfaction of the Department way back in the year 2017-2018. Final bills had been submitted which were duly passed by the authorities but payment was not being released in an unjustified manner. Legal notice dated 09.05.2021 (Annexure P3), it is submitted has been served upon the respondents, but to no avail.

At this stage, Mr. Sahil Sharma, Dy. A.G., Punjab, to whom an advance copy of petition has been supplied, informs that legal notice dated 09.05.2021 (Annexure P3) has been replied to by the Department on 10.06.2021, wherein it is clearly stated that original bills which are stated to

have been passed in the legal notice, are not available with the Department. Petitioner had been asked to submit said bills with the Department. Copy of reply dated 10.06.2021 has been circulated on the WhatsApp group, created for the purpose of video conferencing. Print out of the same be taken and attached with this file.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that said reply has never been received by petitioner. In case, it had been received, necessary action would have been taken immediately. Learned counsel further submits that though to the best of the knowledge of petitioner, original bills stand submitted but in case, it is otherwise, necessary action shall be taken by petitioner within one week from today.

Keeping in view the facts and circumstances as above, but without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, this writ petition is disposed of with a direction to the competent authority to take necessary action on the petitioner submitting relevant documents. Final decision be taken on the petitioner's legal notice dated 09.05.2021 (Annexure P3) within two months thereafter. Payment as may be due to petitioner, be released within six weeks thereafter.

Petition is disposed of accordingly.

14.07.2021

Sunil

**(LISA GILL)
JUDGE**

Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes/No

Whether reportable: Yes/No