

12.04.2023
Sl. No.28(DL)
srm

W.P.A. No. 8238 of 2023

Manatosh Das

Vs.

The State of West Bengal & Ors.

Mr. Rittick Chowdhury

....for the Petitioner.

Mr. Debjit Mukherjee,
Ms. Sunita Chatterjee

...for the State-respondents.

Despite service, none appears on behalf of the respondent Nos.3 and 5 to 10. Affidavit-of-service is taken on record.

The Court is not inclined to pass mandatory directions as prayed for, but deems it fit to send back the matter before the competent authority for necessary steps. Thus, the writ petition is taken up in the absence of the respondent Nos.5 to 10, who will be given adequate opportunity of hearing by the authority.

The petitioner alleges that the respondent Nos.5 to 10 have raised an unauthorised construction on LR Dag Nos.162 and 164 of mouza Chandipur within the jurisdiction of Gangasagar Gram Panchayat, South 24-Parganas.

The allegation is that shop rooms with concrete structures had been erected without any sanction. A representation was filed before the Pradhan of Gangasagar Gram Panchayat, South 24-Parganas, which is yet to be decided.

Under such circumstances, the writ petition is disposed of with a direction upon the Gangasagar Gram Panchayat, South 24-Parganas to dispose of the representation of the petitioner dated March 10, 2023 which is annexure P-2 at page 17 of the writ petition, in accordance with law.

While doing so, the permission granting authority shall adhere to the following procedure:-

- a) An inspection of the site shall be conducted. Such inspection shall be held in the presence of the petitioner and the respondent Nos.5 to 10, with 48 hours advance notice to the petitioner and the respondent Nos.5 to 10.
- b) A report of the inspection shall be prepared along with the sketch map, indicating the extent of unauthorized construction, if any.
- c) Such report shall be handed over to the petitioner as also the respondent Nos.5 to 10.

- d) In case, it is found on preliminary inspection that there may be reasons to believe that the construction was without permission and in violation of the building rules and had been continuing, the authorities may take interim measures by stopping such construction.
- e) A hearing shall be given to all the parties. The parties must also be allowed to furnish their written objection/version to the said report and adduce oral and documentary evidence in support of their contentions, before the competent authority.
- f) A reasoned order shall be passed and communicated to the parties. On the basis of what transpires at the hearing and during inspection, the proceedings shall be reached to its logical conclusion in terms of the provisions of Section 23(5) of the West Bengal Panchayat Act, 1973.

The entire exercise shall be completed within a period of four months from the date of communication of this order.

The Court has not gone into the merits of the claims of the petitioner and the issues raised, shall be decided by the competent authority, independently.

A copy of the writ petition along with a server copy of this order be served upon the Secretary, Gangasagar Gram Panchayat, South 24-Parganas.

The writ petition is, thus, disposed of.

There shall be no order as to costs.

Parties are to act on the basis of the server copy of this order.

(Shampa Sarkar, J.)