

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CWP-5033-2023

Date of Decision: 20.04.2023

Hitesh Sohal

..... Petitioner

Versus

Union of India and others

..... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JASGURPREET SINGH PURI

Present: Mr. Paramveer Singh, Advocate for
Mr. P.K. Kapila, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Ms. Shweta Nahata, Advocate,
for the respondents.

JASGURPREET SINGH PURI, J. (ORAL)

The present writ petition has been filed under Articles 226/227 of the Constitution of India for issuance of a writ in the nature of *mandamus* directing the respondent No.3 to re-issue the passport to the petitioner without further delay.

Learned counsel for the petitioner has submitted that the petitioner had filed an application before the Passport Authority for the grant of passport in the month of November, 2022 but the same has neither been processed nor the final decision has been taken on the same. He further submitted that the reason was probably that there was a conviction of the petitioner and he was released on probation. He also submitted that at least the Passport Authorities should have processed the application filed by the petitioner to its logical conclusion in accordance with law but the same has not been done.

On the other hand, Ms. Shweta Nahata, learned counsel appearing on behalf of the Passport Authorities has at the outset submitted that she has

instructions to state that the application which was filed by the petitioner for grant of passport will be processed expeditiously and will be finalized in accordance with law within a period of three months from today. She further submitted that now even a notice has been sent to the petitioner seeking clarification on various issues to which the petitioner should reply on the basis of which the final decision will be taken.

Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner has submitted that the petitioner will provide all the information which is so required by the Passport Authority as and when he receives the notice.

Ms. Shweta Nahata, learned counsel appearing for the Passport Authorities submitted that a copy of the aforesaid notice will be given to the learned counsel for the petitioner during the course of the day so that the petitioner can provide all the information to the Passport Authorities well within time.

I have heard the learned counsel for the parties.

In view of the aforesaid position whereby the learned counsel for the Passport Authorities has stated that the application of the petitioner for grant of passport will be processed and finalized within a period of three months from today, the present writ petition is disposed of with a direction to the Passport Authorities to consider and decide the application of the petitioner for grant of passport within a period of three months from today and strictly in accordance with law.

20.04.2023

Bhumika

(JASGURPREET SINGH PURI)
JUDGE

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| 1. Whether speaking/reasoned: | Yes/No |
| 2. Whether reportable: | Yes/No |