

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

213

CWP-21162-2018
Date of decision: 03.02.2023

TARLOCHAN SINGH

.....Petitioner

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB AND OTHERS

.....Respondents

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VINOD S. BHARDWAJ

Present:- Mr. PKS Phoolka, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Vishnav Gandhi, DAG, Punjab.

VINOD S. BHARDWAJ, J. (Oral)

The present petition has been filed under Articles 226/227 of the Constitution of India, 1950 seeking issuance of directions to respondents to release Government Financial Aid of Rs.2,00,000/- to the petitioner in relation to commission of suicide by Sadhu Singh, father of the petitioner as the said claim is admissible to the petitioner in terms of the Government policy/letter dated 10.11.2014 (Annexure P-1).

2. Briefly summarized, the facts of the present case are that Sadhu Singh son of Shyam Singh resident of village Mallah, Tehsil Jagraon, District Ludhiana-father of the petitioner committed suicide due to loan debt on 10.06.2012 by consuming pesticide. The State of Punjab had framed a policy vide memo No. 7/64/2011-4-D.M-1/13078-99 dated 10.11.2014 regarding providing financial help to the families of farmers and labourers

who have committed suicide due to loans/farms debts for the period till 11.03.2013. The survey in that regard was to be undertaken by the University and the suicides committed after 31.03.2013 were to be investigated by the respective Deputy Commissioner, Senior Superintendent of Police and Chief Agricultural Officers.

3. Petitioner submitted an application for grant of financial help in terms of the aforesaid policy decision of the State of Punjab. The said application was forwarded by the Chief Agricultural Officer-cum-Member Secretary of the District Level Committee to the Economic and Social Department of the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana on 10.05.2016. However, no action was taken thereupon. The petitioner submitted their application to the Sub Divisional Magistrate reminding them about the release of financial aid. A reminder was thereafter also sent to all the respondents herein. However, no action was taken thereupon and the petitioner approached this Court for the redressal of the aforesaid grievance.

4. Written statement on behalf of respondents No.1 to 3 by way of an affidavit of Ram Singh, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Jagraon was filed wherein it was admitted that the petitioner had applied for the grant of compensation and that in terms of the policy decision of the Government of Punjab dated 10.11.2014 (Annexure P-1) and the aforesaid application of the petitioner had been forwarded to the Head of Economic and Social Department of the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. The said respondents have not denied or disputed the factum that the father of the petitioner had died on account of farm debt.

5. Reply on behalf of the respondent No.4-Agricultural Officer has also been filed wherein it was averred that relief to the eligible persons for

farmers suicide cases was to be given on the recommendations of the District Level Committee under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner in terms of the letter No.2/7/2008-Agri-2(1)/6455-6528 dated 27.07.2015 issued by the Principal Secretary to the Government of Punjab.

6. The applications are required to be presented to the Chief Agricultural Officer or to the Sub Divisional Magistrate concerned within the said period of three months. The procedure for release of the aforesaid amount has been set out in the aforesaid response while acknowledging that the petitioner had submitted the application alongwith requisite documents on 02.08.2015 to the Sub Divisional Magistrate Jagraon for necessary relief as his father Sadhu Singh had committed a suicide on 10.06.2012. He has reiterated that the case has been sent to the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana for further necessary action and that the processing of the claim in this regard has to be done by the Punjab Agricultural University.

7. No reply on behalf of respondent No.5 has been filed despite service.

8. Taking into consideration that the factual aspect regarding the death of father of the petitioner on account of suicide is not in dispute and that the claim has remain pending for nearly one decade, no further wait is justified. The respondent No.5-Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana is directed to take a decision on the claim of the petitioner forwarded by competent authority within a period of 03 months from receipt of certified copy of this order and in the event the claim of the petitioner is verified and is admitted to be due for release, the requisite financial grant shall thereafter be released in a further period of 2 months.

The petition is accordingly disposed of.

(VINOD S. BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE

FEBRUARY 03, 2023

Vishal Sharma

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No
Whether Reportable : Yes/No