

Court No. 2
18.7.2024
(Item No. 87)
(AB)

IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA
Constitutional Writ Jurisdiction
Appellate Side
W.P.A. 9859 of 2020

Ajit Mondal
VS
The State of West Bengal & Ors.

Mr. Ujjal Ray
.... For the petitioner
Md. Mansoor Alam
.... For the State

Affidavit of service is already on record.

Mr. Ujjal Ray, learned advocate appears for the petitioner.

Md. Mansoor Alam, learned State advocate appears for respondent Nos. 1 to 5.

None appears for the private respondent No. 6, the Panchayat and its Pradhan, despite notice. The law presumes that, they do not intend to defend this writ petition.

The petitioner complains of an alleged illegal and unauthorized construction on the subject piece of land at the behest of the private respondent No. 6. The petitioner submits that, a representation dated **November 4, 2020 at page 24** to the writ petition was submitted before the Pradhan of the concerned Panchayat and the same has not yet been disposed of.

After considering the rival contentions of the parties and upon perusal of the materials on record, the Pradhan of the concerned Panchayat is directed

upon issuing a prior notice to the petitioner and the private respondent No. 6 shall cause a physical inspection of the alleged unauthorized and illegal construction and then after giving them an opportunity of hearing to the petitioner and the private respondent shall dispose of the said representation dated **November 4, 2020**, as referred to above, by passing a reasoned order in accordance with law.

The entire exercise as directed above, shall be carried out and completed by the Pradhan of the concerned Panchayat positively within a period of **six weeks** from the date of communication of this order. The Pradhan then shall communicate the reasoned order to the petitioner and the private respondent positively within a further period of **two weeks** from the date of the said reasoned order to be passed.

It is made clear that, this Court has not gone into the merits of the rival claims of the parties mentioned in the said representation. The petitioner and the private respondent shall be at liberty to urge whatever points they wish to urge by relying upon whatever records and documents they wish to rely upon before the Pradhan of the concerned Panchayat but the same shall not travel beyond the scope of the alleged unauthorized and illegal construction.

In the event, the reasoned order confirms the alleged unauthorized and illegal construction, the Pradhan of the concerned Panchayat positively within a period of **seven days** from the date of the communication of the said reasoned order to the parties shall transmit the same and refer the matter before the jurisdictional **Sub Divisional Officer** in terms of **Sub Section (5) to Section 23** of the **West Bengal Panchayat Act, 1973**.

The jurisdictional **Sub Divisional Officer** then shall take all necessary and consequential steps to give an immediate effect to the said reasoned order, without any delay expeditiously in accordance with law.

It is made clear that, this order shall not create any right or equity in favour of the petitioner, if the petitioner is not eligible to receive his claim in terms of their representation with regard to the alleged unauthorized and illegal construction.

The petitioner shall serve a copy of this order upon the jurisdictional **Block Development Officer** who shall ensure that, the direction of this Court is carried out and complied with by the Pradhan of the concerned Panchayat.

Since affidavits are not called for, the allegations made in this writ petition are deemed not to have been admitted by the respondents.

With the above observations and directions this writ petition, **WPA 9859 of 2020** stands disposed of, without any order as to costs.

Photostat certified copy of this order, if applied for, be furnished expeditiously.

(Aniruddha Roy, J.)