

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

**CWP-2900-2024**

**Date of decision : 09.02.2024**

## Jaswinder Singh and another

## .....Petitioners

**versus**

## State of Punjab and others

#### ..... Respondents

**CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJESH BHARDWAJ**

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Present :- Mr. Avinit Avasthi, Advocate  
for the petitioners.

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**RAJESH BHARDWAJ, J. (Oral)**

Prayer in the present petition is for issuance of direction to the official respondents No.1 to 6 to take appropriate and necessary action against respondents No.7 to 12 under Section 20 and 216 of the Punjab Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 and as recommended under the Inquiry Report dated 16.10.2023 (Annexure P-6) and enquiry report dated 03.05.2023 (Annexure P-3). Further prayer has been made for directing official respondents to implement the recommendations of the Inquiry Report dated 16.10.2023 and take appropriate action as per law and to file a complaint with the police department regarding the issue of forged signatures in the Panchayat Register. Further prayer has been made for directing the official respondents to take up the matter in a time bound manner with utmost importance as it is a serious case of embezzlement and misappropriation of Government grant funds by the elected representative body of Sarpanch and Panches.

It has been submitted by counsel for the petitioners that respondent No.7 is the elected Sarpanch who has misappropriated the

funds of Gram Panchayat. He submits that the petitioners have filed a complaint in the year 2022 regarding the same for taking action against respondent No.7 however, till date no substantial action has been taken by the respondents-State on the said complaint.

Notice of motion.

On asking of the Court, Ms. Akshita Chauhan, DAG, Punjab accepts notice on behalf of the State. She, on instructions, has submitted that the cognizance on the complaint filed by the petitioners has already been taken and the DDPO has already submitted his inquiry report to the Director, Rural Development and Panchayat Department, Punjab. She further submits that the Director has now issued notice to the erring officials for giving them personal hearing on 23.03.2024. It has been submitted that the further necessary action would be taken expeditiously in accordance with law.

Heard. On hearing counsel for the parties and perusing the record, it is apparent that the respondents-State has already taken the cognizance of the complaint filed by the petitioners and same is pending adjudication before the Director. Accordingly, the present petition is disposed of with direction to the Director Rural Development and Panchayat Department, Punjab, respondent No.2 to expedite the proceedings pending before him against respondent No.7 and conclude the same within four weeks from 23.03.2024, the date fixed before it.

( RAJESH BHARDWAJ )  
JUDGE

09.02.2024  
m. sharma

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No  
Whether reportable : Yes/No