

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

142

CRWP No. 1758-2024

Date of Decision: 22.02.2024

Vasim

.....Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana and others

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARPREET SINGH BRAR**Present:** Mr. Chander Shekhar Singhal, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Vikas Bhardwaj, AAG, Haryana.

HARPREET SINGH BRAR, J.(ORAL)

1. The present petition has been filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India for issuance of a writ in the nature of Habeas Corpus for release of detenues as mentioned in para 4 of the petition alleged to be illegally detained by respondents No. 4 and 5.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that respondents No. 4 and 5 had contacted the petitioner and his family members at their native village for loading and unloading of pucca bricks. That in the inception, respondents No. 4 and 5 made the payment as agreed by them only for a week and thereafter withheld balance amount of Rs.35,000/- and started taking work from the petitioner and his family members forcibly. It is further contended that respondents No. 4 and 5 have forcefully detained the detenues in their brick kiln and are being forced to work without payment of wages. The petitioner herein, however managed to escape from illegal detention of respondents No. 4 and 5 on 20.02.2024 and made a complaint to respondent No.2-District Magistrate, Karnal to get the detenues released from illegal detention of respondents No. 4 and 5.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner relies upon the judgment rendered by a Division Bench of this Court in LPA No.32 of 2013 titled as **Murti Vs. State of Punjab and Others** decided on 11.01.2013 to contend that as per the ratio decidendi culled out in the said judgment, respondent No.2-District Magistrate, Karnal has to conduct an enquiry as per Section 12 of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 by treating the representation submitted by the petitioner as a complaint and to get the detenues released forthwith in case they are found to be bonded labour by private respondents but till date, no action has been taken by respondent No. 2 on the representation of the petitioner herein.

4. Notice of motion.

5. Mr. Vikas Bhardwaj, AAG, Haryana, who is present in Court, accepts notice on behalf of official respondents and submits that the official respondents will look into the matter and will take a decision on the representation of the petitioner. Let sufficient number of copies of the complete paper book be supplied to him during the course of day.

6. In view of the above, the instant petition is disposed of with a direction to respondent No. 2-District Magistrate, Karnal to treat the representation (Annexure P-1) made by the petitioner as a complaint and conduct an enquiry as per Section 12 of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 and in case the detenues are found in illegal detention of private respondents No. 4 and 5, they be released forthwith.

22.02.2024

Rajeev (rvs)

(HARPREET SINGH BRAR)

JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned
Whether reportable

Yes
No