

2024:PHHC:046462

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

124

CWP-7754-2024
Date of decision: 05.04.2024

MOHIT BEDI

...PETITIONER

Vs.

STATE OF PUNJAB AND OTHERS

...RESPONDENTS

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JAGMOHAN BANSAL

Present: Mr. A.S. Manaise, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Aman Dhir, DAG, Punjab.

JAGMOHAN BANSAL, J (ORAL)

1.

The petitioner through instant petition under Articles 226/227 of the Constitution of India is seeking direction to the respondents to keep the departmental proceedings, initiated against him in pursuance of charge sheet (Annexure P-4) including inquiry report dated 29.11.2023 as well as show cause notice dated 22.02.2024 (Annexure P-5), in abeyance till the conclusion of trial arising out of FIR No.15 dated 31.05.2023 (Annexure P-1) under Section 7, 7-A of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, registered at Police Station Vigilance Bureau, Range Amritsar.
2.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that trial against the petitioner till date has not concluded whereas respondent has concluded departmental inquiry and further issued memorandum of charges. The petitioner has been asked to lead his defence evidence. If the petitioner discloses his evidence, the respondent may use the said defence in the trial. The respondent may be directed not to proceed with departmental proceedings till the examination of Investigating Officer.

3. Learned State counsel expressed his inability to controvert prayer of the petitioner.
4. The petitioner is praying for stay of departmental proceedings till the examination of common witnesses. This Court, especially considering pith and substance of Rule 16.3 of Punjab Police Rules and inability of learned State counsel to controvert prayer of the petitioner, directs the respondents to keep departmental proceedings in abeyance till the date of examination of common witnesses before the Trial Court.
5. It is made clear that as soon as common witnesses are examined before the Trial Court, the respondent would be free to proceed with departmental proceedings and the petitioner shall not seek adjournment or time on one or another ground.
6. Disposed of in above terms.

05.04.2024
manoj

[JAGMOHAN BANSAL]
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned
Whether reportable

Yes/No
Yes/No