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

CWP-10623-2024

Date of Decision: 10.05.2024

Amarjit Singh Bajwa

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and others

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJESH BHARDWAJ

Present: Mr. Ajay Pal Singh Rehan, Advocate, for the petitioner.

Rajesh Bhardwaj, J. (ORAL)

1. Prayer in the present petition is for issuance of direction to respondents No. 1 & 2 to ensure that fair and impartial enquiry is conducted, in accordance with the provisions of the Punjab Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 and the relevant Rules & Instructions issued by the Government from time to time within a definite time frame to be fixed by this Hon'ble Court, into the allegations of embezzlement of Panchayat funds committed by the respondent No. 6 (who was sarpanch of Gram Panchayat village Dehar, P.O. Fattupur, Block Dera Baba Nanak, District Gurdaspur from 2019 to March, 2024) because the said enquiry could not be completed because Respondent No. 6/Sarpanch and the concerned Panchayat Secretary failed to produce the relevant record before the enquiry officer as is clear from letter no. 4026, dated 22.12.2023 (Annexure P-1) sent by Deputy Chief Executive Officer to Respondent No. 2. Further prayer has been made to direct respondents No. 1 and 2 to take necessary action on the representations dated 03.04.2024 (Annexure P- 2) submitted by the petitioner.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner has submitted that despite



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various representations and even letters from the respondent-Department itself, no action has been taken on the same till date.

3. Notice of motion to the official respondents only.
4. Mr. Navneet Singh, Sr. DAG, Punjab accepts notice on behalf of the respondent-State. At the outset, learned State counsel on instructions from Mr. Jagvinderpal Singh, Joint Director Rural Development & Panchayat, has submitted that Deputy Chief Executive Officer has written to the Director, Rural Development and Panchayat Department vide letter dated 22.12.2023 for conducting enquiry and the same would be conducted expeditiously, in accordance with law.
5. After hearing learned counsel for the parties, the present petition is disposed of with a direction to respondent No.2 i.e. Director Department of Rural Development and Panchayat to conclude the enquiry expeditiously preferably within a period of eight weeks from the date of receipt of copy of this order, in accordance with law, if there is no legal impediment in the case.

Office is directed to send a copy of this order to respondent No.2 forthwith.

(RAJESH BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE

10.05.2024
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Whether Speaking/Reasoned :	Yes/No
Whether Reportable :	Yes/No