



(201)

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

CWP-11751-2015 (O&M)
Date of decision:- 12.08.2024

Malkeet Singh Balianwali and another

...Petitioner(s)

Versus

The Union of India and others

...Respondent(s)

CORAM: **HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SHEEL NAGU, CHIEF JUSTICE**
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANIL KSHETARPAL

Present:- Mr. Robin Singh Bhullar, Advocate,
for the petitioners.

Ms. Puneeta Sethi, Senior Panel Counsel (UOI),
for respondent No. 1.

Mr. Saurav Khurana, Additional Advocate General, Punjab.

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SHEEL NAGU, C.J. (ORAL)

1. This petition as Public Interest Litigation has come up for execution of the final order dated 23.07.2015 passed by this Court which is to the following extent:-

“The petitioners have filed this petition seeking direction to the respondents to take appropriate steps for taking measures to tackle the suicides by farmers and farm labourers.

After hearing learned counsel for the petitioners, without issuing notice of motion as it will un-necessary delay the matter, we dispose of this petition with a direction to the Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab (respondent No.2 herein), to look into the issue raised in this petition with regard to the suicides by farmers and farm labourers, and take remedial measures in accordance with law.”

2. Thereafter, this matter was taken up on various occasions for ensuring execution of the aforesaid order.



3. The State of Punjab in an identical petition i.e. CWP-18271-2007 on 13.09.2018 filed an affidavit of Sh. Rahul Gupta, Joint Secretary to Government of Punjab, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, wherein it has been, *inter-alia*, stated that a policy i.e. ‘Relief for Families of Farmers/Farm Labourers Affected by Suicides’ has been framed vide Annexure R-2 therein.
4. A reading of the aforesaid policy, *inter-alia*, reveals that a sum of Rs. 3 lacs has been stipulated to be provided in respect of each reported death to the next of the kin to tide-over the financial distress of the family arising out of death of the bread winner. The aforesaid affidavit in paragraph 15 reveals occurrence of 421 debt related cases of suicides by farmers in the last three years from 23.07.2015 to 15.05.2018 and compensation to the tune of Rs. 12.63 crores having been defrayed under the policy.
5. There is no response filed by the petitioners to the aforesaid policy of the State of Punjab.
6. In view of the above, it appears that for the time being, the cause raised in the PIL appears to have been satisfied.
7. The petition, accordingly, stands disposed of.
8. The petition is consigned to record room with liberty to the petitioners to re-visit the Court in case their grievance remains un-redressed.

(SHEEL NAGU)
CHIEF JUSTICE

(ANIL KSHETARPAL)
JUDGE

12.08.2024
Amodh Sharma

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