



IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

123

CWP-33005-2024 (O&M)
Date of decision: 09.12.2024

Mehmood Pracha

...Petitioner

VERSUS

Election Commission of India and others

...Respondents

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VINOD S. BHARDWAJ

Present :- Ms. Isha Janjua, Advocate and
Petitioner in person (through V.C.).

Mr. Prateek Gupta, Standing Counsel
for Election Commission of India.

Mr. Vivek Saini, Addl. AG Haryana
(through V.C.)

VINOD S. BHARDWAJ, J. (Oral)

Prayer made in the present petition by the petitioner is for directing the respondents to supply the videography, CCTV footage and copies of Forms 17-C Parts I and II pertaining to the Conduct of Haryana Legislative Assembly Elections, 2024.

Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the respondent-Election Commission of India contends that the petitioner is neither a resident of the State of Haryana nor has he contested the election in any Assembly Segment and the present documentation is being sought for malicious intent and purposes.

Learned counsel for the petitioner, however, contends that as



per the provisions of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, the only distinction cast between a Candidate and any other person is that while the documents have to be supplied free of cost to a Candidate who contested the election, the documents are to be supplied to any other person subject to payment of the fee as may be so prescribed. She contends that the petitioner is ready and willing to pay the fee as has been prescribed by the competent authority and as such the information, which the respondents are liable to supply under the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 as well as the instructions issued by the competent authority in this regard, ought to be supplied.

Taking into the consideration the provisions of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, the respondents are directed to supply the copy of the requisite documents, other than the documents qua which a restriction has been imposed under the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, within a period of 06 weeks of submission of such an application and deposit of the requisite charges by the petitioner.

Disposed of accordingly.

(VINOD S. BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE

09.12.2024

Mangal Singh

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