IN THE HIGH COURT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH, SHIMLA

Arb. Case No.134 of 2025

Decided on: 14th October, 2025

Khushal Thakur **.....Petitioner**

Versus

National Highway Authority of India
and another **.....Respondents**

Coram

Ms. Justice Jyotsna Rewal Dua

Whether approved for reporting?[1]

For the Petitioner: Ms. Priyanka, Advocate vice Mr. G.R. Palsra, Advocate.

For the Respondents: Ms. Sneh Bhimta, Advocate, for respondent No.1.

Mr. Y.P.S. Dhaulta, Additional Advocate General, for respondent No.2.

Jyotsna Rewal Dua, Judge

The mandate of learned Arbitrator lapsed on 11.01.2023. This petition has been moved for extending the mandate of the learned Arbitrator for concluding the arbitral proceedings.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioner has placed reliance upon ***Hari Singh Saini and Anr. Vs. Land***

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[1]**Whether reporters of print and electronic media may be allowed to see the order? Yes.**

Acquisition Officer and Anr.[2], ***Pradeep Kumar & Ors. Vs. Land Acquisition Officer & Anr.***[3] and ***Goverdhan and others Vs. LAO and another***[4] in support of his prayer for extending the mandate of learned Arbitrator.

3. Learned counsel for the parties are *ad-idem* that in all such arbitration matters, where mandate of learned Arbitrator had expired on 11.01.2023, the same has been extended under orders passed in the aforesaid different arbitration cases.

Learned counsel for the petitioner has also placed reliance upon the law summed up in ***Prem Laxmi and Company Vs. Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Ltd.***[5] for extending the mandate of learned Arbitrator.

4. In view of orders already passed in *Hari Singh Saini*[2], *Pradeep Kumar*[3], *Goverdhan*[4] and *Prem Laxmi*[5], this petition is allowed. The mandate of learned Arbitrator in deciding the petition under reference is extended by six months from today. The parties, through their learned counsel, are directed to appear before the learned Arbitrator i.e. the Divisional Commissioner, Mandi,

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[2] Arb. Case No.126 of 2025, decided on 27.06.2025
[3] Arb. Case No.188 of 2025, decided on 11.07.2025
[4] Arb. Case No.142 of 2025, decided on 23.07.2025
[5] Arb. Case No.877 of 2024, decided on 03.07.2025

Himachal Pradesh, on **16.10.2025**. All rights and contentions of the parties are left open to be adjudicated by the learned Arbitrator.

The petition stands disposed of in the above terms, so also the pending miscellaneous application(s), if any.

Jyotsna Rewal Dua
Judge

October 14, 2025
Mukesh