

2025:PHHC:101881



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

CWP-16608-2025

Date of Decision: 07.08.2025

Amarjit Singh

..... Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and others

..... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARSH BUNGER

Present: Mr. Ashish Pal Kaushal, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Harpreet Singh, AAG, Punjab.

HARSH BUNGER J. (ORAL)

Petition herein is, *inter alia*, seeking a writ in the nature of Certiorari for setting aside order dated 09.05.2024 (Annexure P-16) passed by the learned Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab, Rural Development and Panchayat Department.

2. Briefly, the petitioner alleges that respondents No.7 and 8, who, are husband and wife, and are ex-Sarpanches of Gram Panchayat, Village Manewal, Ludhiana; in collusion with respondent No.9, indulged in illegal mining/excavation of sand from the Gram Panchayat land. The petitioner filed a complaint dated 11.09.2013, supported by reports from the Mining Officer and Zila Parishad, recommending registration of an FIR against respondents No.7 to 9; however, the Director, Rural Development and Panchayat Department, S.A.S. Nagar, Mohali, closed the complaints against respondents No.7 and 8, vide order dated 19.12.2016 (Annexure P-12).

2.1 Feeling aggrieved against the aforesaid order dated 19.12.2016 (Annexure P-12), the petitioner preferred an appeal before the Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab, Rural Development and Panchayat Department; however, the same was dismissed as infructuous, vide impugned order dated 09.05.2024 (Annexure P-16).

3. In the aforementioned circumstances, petitioner has filed the present writ petition before this Court, seeking relief(s) as noticed hereinabove.

4. Heard.

5. Apparently, the order dated 19.12.2016 (Annexure P-12) was passed in the complaint, wherein the petitioner had sought the initiation of action against respondents No.7 and 8 under Section 20 of the Punjab Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, which provides for the suspension and removal of a Sarpanch or Panch (as the case may be).

6. Concededly, respondents No.7 and 8 have been referred to as ex-Sarpanches of Gram Panchayat Manewal. Considering the fact that respondents No.7 and 8 no longer hold the office of Sarpanch, no fault can be found with order dated 09.05.2024 (Annexure P-16) passed by the learned Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Punjab, Rural Development and Panchayat Department, whereby the appeal filed by the petitioner was dismissed as having been rendered infructuous.

7. In this view of the matter, the present writ petition, being devoid of merit, is dismissed.

8. All pending application(s), if any, shall also stand closed.

07.08.2025

Apurva

(HARSH BUNGER)

JUDGE

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|--------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Whether speaking/reasoned : | Yes/No |
| 2. Whether reportable : | Yes/No |