

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

131

CWP-10538-2026

Date of Decision: 08.04.2026

ASHUTOSH

...Petitioner

Versus

STATE OF HARYANA AND OTHERS

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JAGMOHAN BANSAL

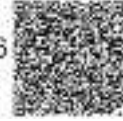
Present:- Mr. Haranank Singh, Advocate on behalf of
Mr. G.S. Sandhu, Advocate for petitioner

Mr. Akshit Pathania, AAG, Haryana

JAGMOHAN BANSAL, J. (ORAL)

1. The petitioner through instant petition under Articles 226/227 of the Constitution of India is seeking direction to respondents to release payment with respect to work carried out by him for the respondent along with interest @ 18% per annum.

2. Learned State counsel on instructions from Mr. Neeraj, Superintending Engineer, Irrigation & Water Resources, Kaithal submits that vigilance inquiry is pending against the petitioner and officials. The estimate was inflated. The moment vigilance inquiry is concluded, due payment would be released.



3. This Court, in view of pendency of Vigilance inquiry, cannot direct respondents to release payment, however, respondent in the name of Vigilance inquiry cannot withhold money of the petitioner for indefinite period. It is basic principle of financial jurisprudence that anyone who withholds money is liable to pay interest because interest is compensatory in nature.

4. In the backdrop, the petition stands disposed of with a direction to respondents to release payment which is not subject matter of inquiry within 3 months from today. If payment is not released within aforesaid period, the respondent would be liable to pay interest @9% from the expiry of said period. The amount which is subject matter of Vigilance inquiry and finally found due shall be released within 4 weeks after conclusion of the inquiry along with interest @ 6% per annum.

5. Pending Misc. application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

(JAGMOHAN BANSAL)
JUDGE

08.04.2026
SDK

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