IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

150 **CWP-14476-2026 (O&M)**
Date of decision: 11.05.2026

Manjinder Kaur

....Petitioner

Vs.

State of Punjab and others

....Respondents

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARSH BUNGER

Present: Mr. Amandeep Singh Manaise, Advocate
for the petitioner.

Mr. Harpreet Singh, AAG, Punjab.

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HARSH BUNGER J. (Oral)

1 Petition herein is, *inter alia*, seeking a writ in the nature of Certiorari, for quashing the letter (Annexure P-2) issued by respondent No.6 - Deputy Economic and Statistical Advisor, Gurdaspur, whereby respondent No.5 – Block Development and Panchayat Officer, Dinanagar has been appointed as executing agency to utilize the funds under the Rangla Punjab Vikas Scheme (Annexure P-1) for the development works in village Katowal, Tehsil Dinanagar, District Gurdaspur.

1.1 A further prayer has been made for issuance of a writ in the nature of *Mandamus,* for directing the respondents No.3 to 6, to utilize the Rangla Punjab Vikas Scheme funds for the development works of village Katowal, through its duly elected Gram Panchayat.

2. Briefly, petitioner – Manjinder Kaur, is stated to be Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Katowal, who was elected in Panchayat elections held on

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15.10.2024. It is stated that the Gram Panchayat consists of one Sarpanch and five Gram Panchayat Members, and the petitioner has the support of three Gram Panchayat Members.

2.1 It is the case of the petitioner that Government of Punjab launched Rangla Punjab Vikas Scheme (Annexure P-1) for the year 2025-26, with an aim of grassroot development and infrastructure improvement of the villages across the State. The petitioner relies upon para No. 2.8 of the aforesaid scheme to contend that in the rural areas, the Gram Panchayat is the implementing agency for the development projects in the village.

2.2 It is contended that under the aforesaid scheme (Annexure P-1), fund of Rs.10,00,000/- has been allocated to village Katowal, out of which Rs.8,00,000/- is meant for completion of Dharamshala in the village and Rs.2,00,000/- is meant for construction of sewerage drain. It is also submitted that although in terms of para No. 2.8 of the scheme (Annexure P-1), the Gram Panchayat is the implementing agency, however, respondent No.6 has wrongly appointed respondent No.5 – Block Development and Panchayat Officer, Dinanagar, as the executing agency for the aforesaid two development works i.e. (i) completion of Dharamshala in the village; and (ii) construction of sewerage drain.

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

4. On the other hand, Mr. Harpreet Singh, AAG, Punjab, appears on behalf of the respondents-State, in pursuance of the advance copy of paper book having already been supplied to him and has opposed the

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submissions raised on behalf of the petitioner. He has referred to para No. 2.10 of the scheme (Annexure P-1) to contend that the selection of an appropriate implementing agency through which a particular work is to be executed rests solely with the District Level Committee and therefore, the petitioner cannot claim as a matter of right that the development works are to be carried out only through the Gram Panchayat. He further submits that the construction of sewerage drain involves various technicalities and even the construction of Dharamshala in the village would require supervision by the respondent Government functionaries, rather than leaving the same to the petitioner or other Members of the Gram Panchayat.

5. I have heard the learned counsel for the respective parties and perused the paperbook with their able assistance.

6. After going through the paperbook as well as the scheme (Annexure P-1), I am of the considered view that the Rangla Punjab Vikas Scheme (Annexure P-1) has been launched so as to provide funds for the important local everyday needs of the people of the districts; wherein the following relevant guidelines have been mentioned:-

> *"**2.0 Operational Guidelines***
>
> *2.1 The funds will be administered at the district level through the District Level Committee' and will be spent based on the recommendations of the MLAs, community organizations, citizen groups and public spirited citizens. The suggested/ proposed list of works along with preliminary estimates would after due consideration be recommended for approval/rejection, as per the extant guidelines of the Rangla Punjab Vikas*

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Scheme, by the District Level Committee chaired by the Deputy Commissioner of the district to the Nodal Minister of RPVS for the district, as appointed by the Chief Minister.

2.2 Administrative Approval (AA) for the works recommended by the District Level Committee shall be accorded by the Nodal Minister of the district for RPVS.

2.3 The District Level Committee will get the appropriate agency at the district level to prepare proper technical and financial estimates for the approved works.

2.4 Financial Sanction (FS) for the works approved by the Nodal Minister shall be accorded by the Deputy Commissioner of the district, as chairperson of the District Level Committee. Technical Sanction (TS) for the works will be accorded by the concerned implementing agency, as per extant guidelines.

2.5 The District Level Committee will undertake regular monitoring of physical and financial progress of the sanctioned works and ensure their timely execution and submission of utilization certificates (UCs) thereafter.

xxx xxx xxx

2.9 The sanction letter issued by the District Level Committee shall stipulate a time limit for completion of the work by the Implementing Agency, which should generally not exceed one year. In exceptional cases, where the implementation time is likely to exceed one-year, specific justification for the same shall be incorporated in the sanction letter.

2.10 The District Level Committee shall make the selection of an appropriate Implementing Agency through which a particular work is to be executed. The selection of the Implementing Agency shall be undertaken in accordance

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with the State Government rules/guidelines applicable for the purpose. If funds are not being utilized by the implementing agency in time or in the case of delay, the agency may be changed at the level of the District Level Committee.

2.11 The District Level Committee shall, before issuing the sanction letter, ensure that all statutory and regulatory clearances for such works have been obtained from the competent authorities and that the work conforms to these Guidelines.

2.12 The District Level Committee, before sanctioning any work, would also obtain an undertaking in writing from the User Agency concerned about their willingness to bear the operation and maintenance cost of the proposed asset from their own resources.

xxx xxx xxx

2.15 The District Level Committee shall maintain proper accounts for the recommended works, follow proper procedure for estimation, sanction and implementation of the proposed works as per the established administrative procedure of the State and shall obtain utilization certificates for such works and submit the DC Bills within the stipulated time period.

2.16 The Implementing Agencies, while executing the works shall follow the established work scrutiny process and procedure of the State Government, shall examine the technical feasibility, undertake financial estimation of work as per the Schedule of Rates and its execution through open and transparent bidding process in accordance with the provisions of The Punjab Transparency in Public Procurement Act, 2019 and Rules made there under, and shall be responsible for

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> *timely implementation of such works. Technical approvals for works above Rs. 1 cr will be required to be taken by the Implementing Agency from the Technical Advisor as per extant guidelines."*

6.1 A bare perusal of the above-extracted operational guidelines would leave no manner of doubt that it is the District Level Committee, which is responsible, for not only approving the financial sanction for the works approved under the Scheme (Annexure P-1) but also for regularly monitoring physical and financial progress and also their timely execution and submission of utilization certificates thereof. Further, District Level Committee is also competent to select the appropriate implementing agency through which a particular work is to be executed.

7. In order to examine the plea of the petitioner that in terms of para No. 2.8, it is the Gram Panchayat, who is the implementing agency, it would be apposite to refer para No.2.8 of the scheme, which reads as under:-

> *"2.8 In rural areas, convergence with MGNREGS funds, wherever possible, shall be desirable. In such cases, RPVS funds shall be used only for procuring material component for the projects that have been approved by the competent authority. The Gram Panchayat shall be the Implementing Agency for such projects."*

7.1 A bare perusal of the above-extracted para No. 2.8 would show that in rural areas, the Gram Panchayat is to be the implementing agency only where there is a convergence with the MGNREGS funds and in such cases, the funds under the Rangla Punjab Vikas Scheme (Annexure P-1) are to be used only for procuring the material component for the project, that has been approved by the competent authority. The reading of the above-

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extracted para No. 2.8, nowhere suggests that in order to execute the works under the Rangla Punjab Vikas Scheme (Annexure P-1), it is only the Gram Panchayat, which is the implementing agency.

8. Furthermore, I am also of the considered view that the petitioner cannot claim as a matter of right that a particular work under a particular scheme, required to be executed in a village has to be done only through the Gram Panchayat.

8.1 That apart, the insistence of the petitioner for execution of the works under the aforesaid scheme (Annexure P-1) only by the Gram Panchayat is not very clear. In fact petitioner should have welcomed the initiative taken by the Government in implementing the two projects in the village Katowal, i.e. (i) completion of Dharamshala in the village; and (ii) construction of sewerage drain, which would improve the outlook of the village.

9. In view of the above discussion, I find no merit in the instant writ petition and the same is accordingly ***dismissed***.

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

(HARSH BUNGER)
JUDGE

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

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