



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

LPA-3161-2025 (O&M)
Date of Decision:09.01.2026

NETRA PAL SINGH

....APPELLANT(S)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA AND OTHERS

....RESPONDENT(S)

CORAM:- HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ASHWANI KUMAR MISHRA
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAMESH CHANDER DIMRI

Present: Mr. S. S. Salar, Advocate
for the appellant.

ASHWANI KUMAR MISHRA, J. (ORAL)

1. This appeal arises out of an order passed by the learned Single Judge dated 09.09.2025 in CWP-1825-2020, whereby the writ petition filed by the appellant, challenging the continuance of respondent No.3, has been dismissed.

2. The learned Single Judge examined the facts of the case and noted that the third respondent was given charge of the post way back in the year 2015–2016, whereas the writ petition came to be filed only in the year 2020. Noticing the principles of laches applicable to writ proceedings, and relying upon the judgment of the Supreme Court in *Mrinmoy Maity v. Chhanda Koley and Others*, 2024 INSC 314, the learned Single Judge dismissed the writ petition.

3. Though various submissions have been urged on behalf of the appellant to contend that the refusal by the learned Single Judge to

interfere in the matter would permit an incompetent and ineligible person to continue, we are not persuaded to enter into such disputed questions of fact, inasmuch as the appellant admittedly does not claim appointment to the post held by the third respondent. In the absence of any locus on the part of the appellant to assail the appointment of the third respondent, and in view of the settled position of law that a public interest litigation is ordinarily not maintainable in service matters, we find no occasion to entertain the present cause.

4. While agreeing with the view taken by the learned Single Judge and for the reasons recorded above, the instant appeal fails and is accordingly dismissed.
5. Pending application(s), if any, stand(s) disposed of.

[ASHWANI KUMAR MISHRA]

JUDGE

[RAMESH CHANDER DIMRI]

JUDGE

JANUARY 09, 2026

Rahul Joshi

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| 1. Whether Speaking/reasoned | Yes/No |
| 2. Whether Reportable | Yes/No |