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

ARB-753-2025

Date of decision: 22.01.2026

M/S GAZI BUILDERS

...Applicant(s)

VERSUS

THE STATE OF PUNJAB AND OTHERS

...Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JASGURPREET SINGH PURI

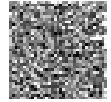
Present:- Mr. R. K. Girdhar, Advocate and
Ms. Kirandeep Kaur, Advocate
for the applicant.

Mr. Raghav Goel, AAG, Punjab.

JASGURPREET SINGH PURI, J. (Oral)

1. The present application has been filed under Section 11 read with Section 12 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Act') seeking appointment of an independent Arbitrator to adjudicate the dispute/claim of the applicant qua the work of construction of a high-level bridge measuring 59.41 meters over Patti Drain crossing Patti Sirhali Mandan Road to Peera Shah in District Tarn Taran under Head 5054 RB-10.

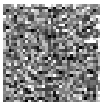
2. Learned counsel for the applicant submitted that a contract was executed between the parties for the aforesaid work and the general conditions of the contract has been attached along with the present arbitration case as Annexure A-1 and the said contract contains a dispute resolution mechanism, wherein Clause 25(v)(a) specifically provides for the appointment of an



Arbitrator. He further submitted that as per the aforesaid Clause, when the original contract value is upto Rs.5 crores, the disputes shall be referred to the sole arbitration of the Superintending Engineer of the concerned circle of Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch acting as such at the time of reference unless debarred from acting as an Arbitrator by an order of the Punjab Government, in which event, the employer shall appoint any other Superintending Engineer of the department to act as an Arbitrator on receipt of a request from either party. He further submitted that it is a settled law that an interested party cannot become an Arbitrator, particularly in view of the provisions of Section 12(5) of the Act and also in view of the judgment passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Perkins Eastman Architects DPC and another versus HSCC (India) Limited, (2020) 20 SCC 760.** He also submitted that a dispute arose between the parties and the applicant invoked the aforesaid arbitration clause by issuing a notice dated 23.06.2025 (Annexure A-7), to which a reply was received from the respondents, wherein they did not deny the reference of the disputes to the Arbitrator.

3. On the other hand, Mr. Raghav Goel, AAG, Punjab submitted that he has categorical instructions from Mr. Davinder Singh, Executive Engineer, Amritsar to state that the respondents have no objection in case an independent Sole Arbitrator is appointed by this Court to adjudicate the disputes which have arisen between the parties.

4. In view of the above, the present application is allowed. Ms. Justice Raj Rahul Garg, a former Judge of this Court, resident of #266, Sector-21, Panchkula, mobile No.-8558809937, e-mail ID-



raj.rahul.garg1@gmail.com, is nominated as the Sole Arbitrator to adjudicate the dispute between the parties, subject to compliance of statutory provisions including Section 12 of the Act.

- 5. Parties are directed to appear before the learned Arbitrator on date, time and place to be fixed and communicated by the learned Arbitrator at her convenience.
- 6. Fee shall be paid to the learned Arbitrator in accordance with the Fourth Schedule of the Arbitration Act, as amended.
- 7. Learned Arbitrator is also requested to complete the proceedings as per the time limit prescribed under Section 29-A of the Act.
- 8. A request letter alongwith a copy of the order be sent to Ms. Justice Raj Rahul Garg, a former Judge of this Court.

22.01.2026
Chetan Thakur

(JASGURPREET SINGH PURI)
JUDGE

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