

2025:PHHC:035130



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

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CWP-6993-2025

Date of Decision: 12.03.2025

JOGINDER SINGH

... Petitioner

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB AND OTHERS

... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VINOD S. BHARDWAJ.

Present: Dr.(Mr.) Naresh Kaushik, Advocate for the petitioner.

VINOD S. BHARDWAJ, J. (ORAL)

Prayer in the present petition is for directing the respondents to not implement the punishment order bearing No.90 dated 27.03.2024 (Annexure P-1), whereby the respondent-Department has ordered recovery of Rs.28,97,660/- against the petitioner, during the pendency of the statutory appeal dated 18.04.2024 (Annexure P-2), which is pending before respondent No.3.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that the petitioner has filed an appeal against the abovementioned order of punishment which is pending before respondent No.3-The Appellate Authority-cum-Chief Conservator of Forests (Plains), S.A.S. Nagar, Punjab. He further submits that the Appellate Authority is sitting over the matter for the last one year and is not deciding the appeal; whereas on the other hand, the respondent-Department is bent upon recovering the aforesaid amount of recovery from the petitioner.

Notice of motion.

Ms. Jagriti Kalia, AAG, Punjab accepts notice on behalf of the respondents and prays for some time to complete instructions and file response, if necessary.

Learned counsel for the petitioner, however, contends that he would be satisfied at this stage, in case respondent No.3- The Appellate Authority-cum-Chief Conservator of Forests (Plains), S.A.S. Nagar, Punjab is directed to decide the statutory appeal dated 18.04.2024 (Annexure P-2) preferred by the petitioner, in a time bound manner.

Learned State Counsel does not have any objection to the request made by learned counsel for the petitioner.

Accordingly, in view of the above; with the consent of the parties and without commenting anything on the merits of the case, the present petition is disposed of while directing respondent No.3 to decide the statutory appeal dated 18.04.2024 (Annexure P-2) by passing a reasoned and speaking order after affording an opportunity of hearing to the respective parties within a period of four months of the date next fixed in the said appeal.

Petition stands disposed of accordingly.

The recovery in question shall, however, remain stayed till the decision of the abovesaid appeal.

MARCH 12, 2025.

Rajender

**(VINOD S. BHARDWAJ)
JUDGE**

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes/No

Whether reportable : Yes/No