

CWP-PIL-222-2026 (O&M)**RAM CHANDER AND ANOTHER
VS.
STATE OF HARYANA AND OTHERS**

Present: Mr. G.S. Gopera, Advocate
for the applicants/petitioners.

Mr. Deepak Balyan, Addl. A.G., Haryana.

Mr. Dheeraj Jain, Senior Advocate, with
Ms. Gurneet Saggo, Central Govt. Counsel,
for respondents-UOI.

Mr. S.P. Chahar, Advocate,
Ms. Savita Chahar, Advocate, and
Mr. Mahesh Inder Preet, Advocate,
for respondent No.12.

1. The issue raised in the present Public Interest Litigation is a matter of serious concern.

2. It transpires that the Ombudsman/Lokpal appointed under the MNREGA Scheme had submitted a report as far back as in the year 2023, recording findings regarding diversion and misappropriation of funds on the part of the authorities entrusted with the implementation of the Scheme. The report also contained a direction for registration of an FIR and investigation into the matter. However, nothing appears to have been done pursuant thereto. It is only after filing of the present PIL petition that the authorities have woken up from their deep slumber.

3. On 01.09.2026, we have passed the following order :-

“Despite the report of the Ombudsman filed way back in the year 2023, acknowledging that funds under the MNREGA

Scheme have been diverted and a preliminary report substantiating such facts, `neither FIR has been lodged nor any action is taken in this regard.

In that view of the matter, we call upon the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak to examine the matter and file his personal affidavit, clarifying the status in this regard, within two weeks from today.

*List this case again on **22.09.2026.***

4. Pursuant to the aforesaid orders, an affidavit dated 18.09.2026 has been filed by the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak which contains the following averments in Para 3 :-

"3. That in compliance of the above order dated 01-09-2026 of this Hon'ble Court the record of the above said case examined and found that a complaint was received in this office from Hon'ble Home Minister, Government of Haryana dated 20-03-2023 through Commissioner MGNREGA-cum-Director and Special Secretary, Rural Development Department, Haryana Chandigarh filed by the complainant Sh. Lalit S/o Sh. Om Singh vide letter No. MGNREGA-2023/5124 dated 11-09-2024 dated 11-09-2023 and the same was referred to the Ombudsman MGNREGA AND MAY-G, District Rohtak and the Ombudsman issued a direction to the Chief Executive Officer DRDA, Rohtak to register an FIR against the concerned Block Development and Panchayat Officer, and other erring officials of Block Sampla for committing irregularities being executor of MGNREGA Act- 2005/ Scheme in this matter."

5. An enquiry report annexed along with the said affidavit is by the Sub Divisional Officer (Civil), Sampla who completely gives a clean chit of the concerned Block Level Authorities and exonerates them. An

FIR was, however, lodged against one person namely Sh. Parveen Mate, Gram Panchayat, Samchana, Block Sampla, District Rohtak.

6. An application bearing No. CM-760-CWPIL-2026 has been filed by the petitioners, wherein it is stated that petitioner No.1, Ram Chander, aged about 72 years, was physically assaulted when he visited the office of the SDO. A photograph stated to be in support of the said allegation has also been annexed with the application.

7. A perusal of the record would indicate that no action was taken on the recommendations made by the MNREGA Lokpal for more than three years. It is only after the filing of the present Public Interest Litigation and the issuance of directions by this Court that an FIR came to be registered in September 2026 against one individual, while the officers specifically implicated in the report of the MNREGA Lokpal have not been proceeded against. The manner in which the affidavit has been filed also leaves much to be desired.

8. An affidavit dated 18.09.2026 of the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak basically relies upon the same Officer against whom the allegations were made. There is an apparent lack of application of mind in the affidavit of the Deputy Commissioner, Rohtak.

9. If matters involving allegations of financial misappropriation are dealt with in such a manner by the senior-most officers of the District Administration, there is every likelihood that such instances would go unattended and ultimately result in no meaningful action being taken. The State would, therefore, do well to sensitize its

officers to deal with such matters with the seriousness and promptitude they warrant.

10. List this case again on **15.10.2026.**

11. We direct this order be placed immediately before the Chief Secretary to the Government of Haryana, who shall depute the concerned the Deputy Commissioner, Rothak to remain present before the Court along with relevant records on the next date of hearing. In case the Court is not satisfied with the proposed action to be taken by the respondents, then this Court would consider referring the matter to an independent agency for investigation.

**[ASHWANI KUMAR MISHRA]
CHIEF JUSTICE**

**[ROHIT KAPOOR]
JUDGE**

October 8, 2026
Ess Kay