

Court No. - 6

Case :- WRIT - C No. - 7877 of 2024

Petitioner :- Thakur Rangji Maharaj Virajman Mandir

Respondent :- State Of Up And 3 Others

Counsel for Petitioner :- Devansh Misra

Counsel for Respondent :- C.S.C.

Hon'ble Rohit Ranjan Agarwal,J.

1. Pursuant to the order dated 18.03.2024, S.V.S. Ranga Rao, Commissioner/Secretary, Board of Revenue is present in the Court today, who is identified by Mrs. Monika Arya, learned Additional Chief Standing Counsel.

2. Personal affidavit of the officer concerned has been filed today, which is taken on record.

3. The officer who is present in the Court submits that no demand was made by the District Magistrate, Mathura as to the annuity to be paid to nine temples of Vrindavan, and it was for the first time that through a letter dated 26.02.2024 send by the District Magistrate, Mathura, the officer concerned came to know about the payment of annuity. He has further made a statement that after receiving the letter and order of this Court, the matter was placed before the Chief Secretary, whereby necessary sanction has been given for making payments. He further submits that the balance amount of Rs.6,89,308/- shall be transmitted into the accounts of temples.

4. This Court after interacting with the officer concerned and after hearing Additional Advocate General as well as Sri J.N. Maurya, Chief Standing Counsel finds that it is a regular feature and annuity has to be paid to the various temples, mosques, gurudwaras and trusts as given in Section 99 of the U.P.Z.A. & L.R. Act, for which, demands are raised by the concerned District Magistrate with the Government annually, and after

sanction of the amount by Commissioner/Secretary, Board of Revenue, the said amount is transferred.

5. We are in the age of digital technology, where the amount can be transferred without there being any need of doing paper work, and if the Government of the present time finds it proper, it should call for bank accounts of each and every institutions/temples/trusts to whom annuities are payable under Section 99, and the same is registered with the State Government.

6. On the beginning of each financial year, the said annuity is transferred automatically into the said accounts without interference of any officer of the State Government. The paper work is only delaying in the transfer of annuities for which these temples/trusts are entitled.

7. The present case is a classic example of red tapism of the government officials where the annuity has been withheld for the last four years (from 01.01.2020 to 31.12.2023).

8. As the matter is already before the Chief Minister of the State who shall take necessary action in the matter, list this matter after three weeks, on which date, the petitioner counsel shall apprise the Court as to whether annuity has been received or not.

9. In the meantime, the State shall take necessary steps which shall be brought to the notice of the Court through an affidavit.

10. Personal appearance of the officer concerned is exempted until further order of this Court.

Order Date :- 20.3.2024

SK Goswami