LOKPAL OF INDIA [Plot No. 6, Institutional Area, Phase-II, Vasant Kunj] New Delhi

Complaint Nos.

178/2023

Date

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27th September, 2023.

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Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty Hon'ble Acting Chairperson

Justice Abhilasha Kumari

Judicial Member

Shri Dinesh Kumar Jain

Member

Smt. Archana Ramasundaram

Member

Shri Mahender Singh,

Member.

ORDER

Perused the complaint.

- 2. This complaint is directed against the Principal Secretary, Tourism and Culture and Director General, Tourism, in the State of Uttar Pradesh, who is named in the complaint and hereinafter referred to as the public servant. The subject-matter of the complaint is regarding a Central Government scheme known as Swadesh Darshan.
- 3. The brief facts as narrated by the complainant are that her late husband, also named in the complaint, was serving in the Tourism Department of the State of Uttar Pradesh, till his death, by suicide, in February, 2023.

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- 4. The allegation levelled by the complainant is that her late husband was pressurised by his superior, the concerned public servant, to sign the physical completion certificates for the schemes of Central Government Projects under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme though the said projects were not complete in all respects. The projects in which completion certificates were forcefully got signed under pressure are listed in the complaint. It is stated by the complainant that these projects were not complete and did not meet the required standards. Despite this fact, the concerned public servant exerted undue pressure on her husband to sign the completion certificates. Feeling humiliated, harassed, targeted, trapped and threatened by the public servant, her husband took his own life.
- 5. The complainant has demanded an investigation into eight Central Government schemes and grants to the Tourism Department of the State of Uttar Pradesh listed in the complaint, in order to unearth alleged wrongdoings and to examine all certificates.
- 6. The second allegation of the complainant is to the effect that officials of all levels handling the Central Government Schemes or approving grants, have disproportionate assets, therefore all financial records, Bank accounts and property documents pertaining to them and the members of their families, should be probed.
- 7. Having perused the complaint, it is clear that the first allegation regarding the suicide of the complainant's husband due to alleged pressure and threats exerted by the public servant,

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would fall under the ambit and scope of criminal law and procedure. The Lokpal of India would, therefore, have no jurisdiction to entertain this plea.

- 8. Regarding the second allegation pertaining to alleged disproportionate assets of all officials handling Central Government Schemes in the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department, we are of the view that this allegation is vague and general, with no details or actionable material whatsoever.
- 9. However, the complaint be sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, to look into the matter at their end.
- 10. With the above observations, the complaint is disposed of.

COURT MASTER, LOKPAL OF INDIA.