

LOKPAL OF INDIA

**Plot No. 6, Institutional Area, Phase- II
Vasant Kunj
New Delhi - 110070**

Complaint No. : 196/2023

Date : 8th November, 2023

Coram : **Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty**
Acting Chairperson

Justice Abhilasha Kumari
Judicial Member

Shri Dinesh Kumar Jain
Member

Smt. Archana Ramasundaram
Member

Shri Mahender Singh
Member

ORDER

The complaint is against the Gram Vikas Adhikari (Village Development Officer) and the Gram Pradhan, District Kushinagar, Government of Uttar Pradesh.

2. The complainant has enclosed a letter addressed to the Hon'ble Lokayukta wherein he has levelled allegations of connivance and corruption against the (i) Gram Pradhan and (ii) Gram Sachiv of Jungle Luathaha Gram Panchayat, Development Block Dudhahi, District Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh. He has alleged corruption/fraud in each and every project being handled by them.

3. The complainant appears to be the owner of a trading enterprise/firm that received a contract for supplying (building) material for the village development project. He has alleged that the Village Development Officer and the husband of the Gram Pradhan approached him to increase the amount

filled in the bills submitted by him and to return the difference to them in cash. When he refused to comply with their demands, the payment of his existing dues was stopped and purchase of material from his firm was discontinued.

4. The complainant has further alleged that the said Gram Pradhan and the Village Development Officer also received payments towards two fake bills for Rs. 4,00,000/- and Rs. 6,00,000/- generated by them in the name of a non-existing company. The complainant has requested for an inquiry and necessary action against the said Panchayat officials.

5. We have perused the complaint along with the enclosures. As this happens to be against certain Panchayat officials working under the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, it does not appear to fall under the purview of the Lokpal. However, the allegations relating to corruption, fraud and embezzlement of public money are serious in nature and call for a probe. Therefore, the Full Bench is of the view that the complaint, along with enclosures, be forwarded to the Hon'ble Lokayukta, Uttar Pradesh for such action, as deemed fit.

6. The Registry of the Lokpal of India is directed to do the needful.

7. Accordingly, the complaint stands disposed of. The complainant is at liberty to pursue the matter with the office of the Hon'ble Lokayukta, Uttar Pradesh/ authorities concerned.


COURT MASTER
LOKPAL OF INDIA