

LOKPAL OF INDIA
Plot No.6, Institutional Area, Phase-II
Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 110070

Complaint No. : 22/2020, 63/2020 and 02/2021

Date : 28 April 2023

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

Shri Dinesh Kumar Jain
Member

Shri Mahender Singh
Member

ORDER

Complaint Nos. 22/2020, 63/2020 and 02/2021 were received in the office of Lokpal of India against Dr. Manager Singh, the then Director General, National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property (NRLC) and others alleging irregularities and violation of prescribed procedure and CVC guidelines in the matter of tendering, awarding and execution of the work to M/s V.K. Singh Construction Company by Dr. Manager Singh, the then Director General, NRLC in both the campuses of NRLC at Lucknow and Mysore and misappropriation of money by M/s V.K. Singh Construction Company in collusion with the officials of NRLC.

2. The Complaint No. 22/2020 was considered by the Full Bench of the Lokpal on 25.08.2020. The Hon'ble Full Bench, after considering the seriousness of allegations in the complaint directed that the complaint be referred to Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for conducting an inquiry u/s 20(1)(a) of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 and submit a report within a period of sixty days.

3. The CVC vide letter dated 01.12.2020 submitted the inquiry report received from Ministry of Culture. The Hon'ble Full Bench considered the

another two complaints numbered 63/2020 and 02/2021 containing similar allegations and the inquiry report of Ministry of Culture, submitted by CVC on 15.01.2021 and after considering the allegations in all the three complaints and fact given in the inquiry report directed Dr Manager Singh to file an affidavit within six weeks as per provisions of Section 20(3) of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.

4. The Hon'ble Division Bench of Lokpal of India, after considering the Inquiry Report and submissions of Dr. Manager Singh and after satisfying that there exists a *prima facie* case, felt it necessary to order a thorough investigation in the matter. Accordingly, vide Order dated 30.09.2021, the Hon'ble Division Bench directed CBI to conduct an investigation under Section 20(3) of the Act and submit a report in respect of the complaints against Dr. Manager Singh, the then DG, NRLC and others.

5. In compliance with the orders dated 30.09.2021 of Hon'ble Division Bench, CBI registered a regular case No. RC2182022A0005 dated 28.03.2022 u/s 120 B r/w 420 of IPC and section 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended).

6. In compliance with the Orders of the Hon'ble Division Bench of Lokpal of India, CBI submitted the Investigation Report vide their letter dated 28.12.2022 along with annexures in respect of the subject complaints. Investigation in the matter has revealed *prima facie* cases of omission and commission against certain officers and private persons and accordingly, CBI has sought sanction for prosecution under Section 20(7) of the Lokpal & Lokayuktas Act, 2013 in respect of the following public servants involved in the case:-

- (i) Dr. Manager Singh, the then Director General, NRLC.
- (ii) Shri B.S. Rawat, Junior Scientific Officer, NRLC.
- (iii) Dr. Neeta Nigam, the then Junior Scientific Officer, NRLC.
- (iv) Shri S.K. Tiwari, the then Dy. Superintending Archaeological Chemist (Retd.), Archaeological Survey of India.




7. The CBI has also recommended RDA for major penalty against Dr. Manager Singh for not following due procedure in appointment of Dr. Uma Shankar Lal as Project Associate, Level I and Ms. Isha Shankhwar as Project Intern in the field project at Nagpur Improvement Trust.

8. The Investigation Report of the CBI and other relevant documents pertaining to the case were placed by the Registry of the Lokpal before the Division Bench. On the basis of findings in the Investigation Report, the Division Bench obtained comments of the public servants and the competent authority as mandated under Section 20(7) of the Lokpal & Lokayuktas Act, 2013, before taking a decision whether to grant sanction for prosecution in the case as sought by the CBI.

9. The Division Bench, after carefully gone through the findings of the Investigation Report of the CBI, material evidence on record, relevant documents, statement of witnesses, comments of the public servants and the competent authority, has taken a decision to grant sanction to prosecute the above said public servants.

10. The Division Bench also considered the recommendations of CBI to initiate RDA for Major Penalty against Dr. Manager Singh. Considering the recommendations, facts and circumstances of the case and materials available in the records, we direct the Ministry of Culture, Government of India to initiate RDA for Major penalty against Dr. Manager Singh, the then DG, NRLC as recommended by CBI vide their Investigation Report dated 28.12.2022 already sent to the Ministry. We further direct to conclude the said proceedings within six (06) months from the date of receipt of the order. The final outcome of the proceedings may be intimated to the Registry Lokpal of India.


(COURT MASTER)
LOKPAL OF INDIA