

LOKPAL OF INDIA

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

Complaint No. : 24/2023
Date : 8th February, 2023
Coram : **Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty**
Acting Chairperson
Justice Abhilasha Kumari
Judicial Member
Smt. Archana Ramasundaram
Member
Shri Mahender Singh
Member
Dr. Indrajeet Prasad Gautam
Member

ORDER

The matter has arisen from the complaint dated 27.12.2022 filed by a resident of District Ballia (Uttar Pradesh).

2. The complainant has levelled allegations against the 'Pradhan' and her husband 'Pradhan Pati' of Dighar Village, Ballia for having committed serious financial irregularities, criminal misconduct and embezzlement of funds amounting to lakhs of rupees out of the funds sanctioned for the development of the said village. It has been alleged that payments have been made towards certain developmental works which have not been actually carried out. No lighting has been provided in the said village but several lakhs of rupees have been spent towards the purchase of LED bulbs. Even certain repairs and construction work, which had been completed earlier, have been claimed again resulting in misappropriation of nearly Rs.30 lakhs for works shown under MGNREGA Scheme.

3. It has also been alleged that at the time of the election to the said post in March 2021, the Village Pradhan had declared immovable property worth

Rs. 1,00,000/- only but in July a land has been purchased and registered for the value of Rs. 16,00,000/-, misusing the funds of the Gram Sabha.

4. While levelling these allegations, the complainant has mentioned that the 'Pradhan Pati' (the husband of the 'Village Head') is the *defacto* Pradhan in the said village who has been misusing the powers vested in his wife who has been elected as 'Pradhan'. He has also used muscle power and attacked the rival candidates during the election for the post of Village Pradhan. He openly claims that no action will be taken against him.

5. The complainant has further alleged that when he asked the 'Pradhan' to furnish the details relating to the expenditure incurred towards the developmental works, he was implicated in a false case and harassed by the 'Pradhan Pati'. As the residents of the said village are being compelled to watch these illegal acts silently, he has requested for intervention of the Lokpal of India.

6. Having perused the complaint, we find that the allegations levelled are against an elected Village Head called 'Pradhan' in the State of Uttar Pradesh and her husband. Hence, the matter does not appear to fall under the jurisdiction of the Lokpal of India. The Full Bench of the Lokpal of India 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.

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

8. 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 or the authorities concerned.

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