

Neetu vs. State of H.P. & Ors.

Cr.WP No.06 of 2026

12.02.2026

Present: None for the petitioner.

Mr. Pranay Pratap Singh, Additional Advocate General, for respondents No.1 to 5.

Inspector Gaurav Bhardwaj, P.L. Una present in person.

Mr. Akshay Sharma, Labour Officer, Una present in person.

In compliance to the order dated 10.02.2026, the Deputy Commissioner, Una and the Superintendent of Police, Una, have filed their respective personal affidavits. Upon perusal thereof, this Court finds that the allegations levelled by the applicant/petitioner to the effect that the persons mentioned in Para 4 of the petition were detained, are factually incorrect.

The Deputy Commissioner has relied upon the report submitted by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Una, District Una, who personally visited the spot and is also present in Court. As per the said report, the Dy.SP, Una, along with the Labour Officer, Una, visited the premises on 10.02.2026 to enquire into the matter. During inspection, it was found that out of the persons named in Para 4 of the petition, 20 individuals, namely those at Serial Nos. 1 to 13, 15, 17 to 20, 24 and 25 were present at the site. In addition, Smt. Sunita w/o Sunil, Smt. Vati w/o Rishi Pal, and Sh. Sunil Kumar s/o Sh. Om Parkash were also found present.

A joint statement of the said persons was recorded during the enquiry. They categorically stated that they were working voluntarily and that there was no pressure, coercion or force of any nature from the owner's side. They further stated that one Sandeep and Mintu, residents of Uttar Pradesh, had brought them by truck to work at GBG Garg Brick, situated at Badsala, Tehsil and District Una, and that they were 33 persons in total.

It was further stated before the SDM, Una, that they had not been engaged in any work at the said brick kiln from 28.12.2025 to 10.02.2026. They expressed their desire to return to their native place, and accordingly, all 33 persons left for their homes on 10.02.2026. A payment of Rs. 20,000/- each was made by the owner of GBG Garg Brick. The report specifically records that no instance of bonded labour was found at the time of inspection. Copies of the statements are annexed as Annexure R-4/III (page 14 of the affidavit). The Labour Officer has also submitted his report, annexed as Annexure R-4/IV.

The Superintendent of Police, Una, in his personal affidavit, has reiterated the facts as stated in the affidavit of the Deputy Commissioner.

Today, when the matter was taken up, the SDM, Una; Mr. Akshay Sharma, Labour Officer; and Inspector Gaurav Bhardwaj were present in Court. They have

categorically stated that during inspection of the site, nothing was found to suggest that the persons mentioned in Para 4 of the petition had been illegally detained. They further confirmed that all the said persons have since left for their native place.

Mr. Rakesh Goyal, owner of GBG Garg Brick submits that a sum of Rs.8,00,000/- had been paid to Sandeep and Neetu (petitioner). According to him, it appears that the present complaint has been filed to evade payment of wages to the labourers. He seeks three weeks' time to file a comprehensive reply to the petition addressing all allegations therein including the conduct of the petitioner.

The prayer of respondent No. 6, Mr. Rakesh Goyal, is allowed. He is directed to file a detailed reply within three weeks.

The affidavits filed by the Deputy Commissioner, Una and Superintendent of Police, Una are taken on record.

List on **09.03.2026** before the appropriate Bench.

(Romesh Verma)
Vacation Judge

February 12, 2026
(Ritu)