

Shakuntla Sharma versus State of H.P and others

Execution Petition No. 37 of 2025

22.03.2025 Present: Mr. Hamender Singh Chandel, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Anup Rattan, Advocate General with Mr. Yashwardhan Chauhan, Sr. Additional Advocate General, Mr. Ramakant Sharma, Mr. Sushant Keprate, & Ms. Sharmila Patial, Additional Advocates General and Mr. Raj Negi, Deputy Advocate General, for respondents No.1 to 4-State.

Mr. Naveen K. Bhardwaj, Advocate for respondent No.5.

Dr. Abhishek Jain, Principal Secretary (PWD) and Er. N.P.S Chauhan, Chief Engineer, Mandi in person.

On 20.03.2025, the Court passed the following order:-

“Heard. It is astonishing to note that a whopping amount of Rs. 80 lacs is alleged to have been sanctioned and thereafter utilized for ambulance road, that too of less than 200 meters length. At the first instance how this amount has been sanctioned for such a small work and thereafter mis-utilized is a matter of great concern, given the fact that this probably may not even be the cost of an “express-way”.

Therefore, let Principal Secretary (PWD) alongwith concerned Chief Engineer appear before this Court on the next date of hearing alongwith the relevant record(s) and justify their respective action.

2. In compliance to the aforesaid order, Dr. Abhishek Jain, Principal Secretary (PWD) and Er. N.P.S Chauhan, Chief Engineer, Mandi have appeared alongwith the relevant record.

3. Both these officers try to explain that a sum of ₹80,00,000/- deposit fund work provided by the Municipal Council, Kullu, however, out of the which, ₹65,00,000/- has been utilized till date and remaining ₹15,00,000/- are still to be utilised.

4. The total length of the ambulance road, according to them is about 160 meters and is having a width varying from 3 to 5 meters.

5. Even if we take the average width to be about 4 meter, even then the cost of construction of the road works out to an astounding figure of nearly ₹12,500/- per square meter.

6. In this background, we have no hesitation to observe that we are not at all satisfied with the explanation offered by the officers present today.

7. Accordingly, we direct the Principal Secretary (PWD) and Chief Engineer (PWD) to hold an inquiry into the matter and submit their respective reports to this court within a period of six weeks' from today. In the meanwhile, the respondents are directed to ensure that the amount that has

been sanctioned but not completely utilized, is fully utilised and the ambulance road in question is constructed and completed by the next date of hearing.

8. The presence of Principal Secretary (PWD) and Chief Engineer is dispensed with till further orders.

List on 08.05.2025.

(Tarlok Singh Chauhan)
Judge

March 22, 2025

(Sushil Kukreja)
Judge