

HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE FOR RAJASTHAN
BENCH AT JAIPUR

D.B. Civil Writ Petition No. 12479/2022

Ramkesh Meena Son Of Shri Moolchand Meena

-----Petitioner

Versus

State Of Rajasthan

-----Respondent

Connected With

D.B. Civil Writ Petition No. 14825/2020

Gramotthan Sanstha

-----Petitioner

Versus

The State Of Rajasthan

-----Respondent

D.B. Civil Writ Petition No. 13380/2022

Gambheer Nadi Jal Bachav Samiti

-----Petitioner

Versus

State Of Rajasthan

-----Respondent

D.B. Civil Contempt Petition No. 26/2023

Gramotthan Sanstha,

-----Petitioner

Versus

Smt. Usha Sharma,

-----Respondent

For Petitioner(s)	:	Mr. Deepak Sharma Mr. Arvind Kumar Singh
For Respondent(s)	:	Mr. B.S. Chhaba, AAG assisted by Mr. Hardik Singh & Mr. Vinayam Saran Ms. Niharika Choudhary Mr. Vivek Bansal, (XEN), Water Resources Department, Karauli Ms. Mahi Yadav, AAG assisted by Mr. Aditya Godara

HON'BLE THE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE MR. SANJEEV PRAKASH SHARMA

HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE SHUBHA MEHTA

Order

23/04/2026

1. The Superintending Engineer is present in the Court.

2. We have noticed that the affidavit was filed by him on 07.03.2026, which reflects that in the Panchana Dam Irrigation Project, Karauli, water is available to be released to the canals under the gravity command area in District Karauli and Sawai Madhopur, which would provide water to 35 villages and irrigate 9985 hectares of lands twice in a year and similarly along with the same Panchana Dam through Panchana Gurla Lift Canal would be able to provide in Karauli District nearby 13 villages comprising of 1973 hectare of land, water for irrigation which would be available for both the cultivation seasons. However, the report prepared by the Superintending Engineer, Water Resources Circle, Jaipur leaves it in lurch when the water would be released.

3. Mr. B.S. Chhaba, learned Additional Advocate General submits that a committee, which was formed by the DOP vide order dated 15.09.2003 is required to meet and give its sanction for releasing the water and take a decision thereto.

4. However, we find that this Court in D.B. Civil Writ Petition (PIL) Nos.14825/2020 & 12479/2022 passed orders on 08.07.2022 directing that the water may be released from Panchana Dam to the canals in the command area.

5. We also notice that after the order dated 08.07.2022, certain agitations took place where the demand for water in the remaining villages was taken up by the local villagers through their representatives. A meeting for sorting out the problem between the respective stakeholders took place on 22.04.2023 and also thereafter, in contempt proceedings also the case was taken up before this Court.

6. On 05.03.2026, we after noticing the observations made by the Court from time to time, passed the following order:

"5. Today, learned Additional Advocate General Mr.B.S. Chhaba appearing for the Department submits that there is a dispute between the villagers, and the State Government is unable to sort out the dispute between the villagers and in the garb of dispute between the villagers, the State Government is not supplying water to any of the villages.

6. Learned AAG further refers to the misc. application filed for recalling of order passed in the year 2022. More than four years have lapsed since 2022 and we find that even till date the project has not resulted in releasing of water to the citizens of the area.

7. The Irrigation facilities are required for one and all. This Court would not allow the Government officials to take excuses on the basis of political will of the concerned region. Merely because some groups of persons are opposing a scheme would not be sufficient to withhold the scheme. Moreover, we find that the Lift Irrigation Scheme and the Canal had already been constructed since 2005 and a huge amount has been spent of the public exchequer. The State officials would, therefore, be responsible to see that the concerned scheme i.e. the water supply system through Lift Irrigation Scheme is made operational.

8. The present Superintendent Engineer of the Water Resources Department shall file the status report and inform this Court as to why the project was not made operational inspite of aforesaid directions issued on 23.02.2023 by this Court."

7. Upon our directions, the present status report has been filed.

8. We also take note of the fact that the State has also further provided another Rs.50 crores for the second line of the Rajasthan Lift Canal Project for releasing water in the revenue villages of Pipalpura, Tikaitpura, Uchekapura and Toka (Khareta) and also for the purpose of upgradation of the existing Panchana Gudla Lift Canal Scheme.

9. Considering the financial sanctions granted by the State and the report submitted by the Superintending Engineer dated 07.03.2026, we direct the Secretary, Water Resources Department to issue necessary orders for releasing of water immediately to the

existing canals and at the same time, to take steps for construction of the further link canal to provide water to the concerned aforesaid villages, which are yet to get the water through the existing canals and also take all immediate steps for repairing of the existing canals at whatever places it is required. However, the repairing work will, in no manner, stop the releasing of the water.

10. The project shall be taken up with great earnest and we expect the continuing project to be completed at the earliest.

11. The order passed by this Court shall be complied with forthwith, failing which the concerned Secretary and the Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department shall remain present in the Court on the next date.

12. List on 01.05.2026 for compliance.

(SHUBHA MEHTA),J

(SANJEEV PRAKASH SHARMA),ACTING CJ

N.GANDHI/RAJAT/41-44