

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA  
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CIVIL APPEAL NO. 980 OF 2014  
ARISING OUT OF  
SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (C) NO. 18242 OF 2011

JAGDISH NARAIN SHUKLA

Appellant(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

ORDER

Leave granted.

Heard learned counsel for the appellant. Despite notice, no one appears for the respondents.

The appellant claims to be a journalist. He filed Writ Petition No. M/B 4188/2010 before the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad, Lucknow Bench pointing out various irregularities allegedly committed by different officials of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh with regard to the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (for short "NREGA"). In the writ petition, the appellant also gave specific instances of irregularities allegedly committed by government officials. The High Court initially entertained the writ petition as a Public Interest Litigation and adjourned the matter from time to time to enable the State Government and its officers to reply to the various allegations of irregularities, but by the impugned order dated 19th April, 2011, abruptly dismissed the writ petition saying that the appellant has not filed a complaint under the provisions of the U.P. Employment Guarantee Grievance Redressal Mechanism Rules, 2009.

We have perused the writ petition and we find that some serious irregularities have been alleged in the writ petition which require consideration by the High Court, particularly in view of the fact that NREGA has been enacted with a laudable object to the benefit of the people with regard to rural employment and if a grievance with specific allegations is made by a member of public bona fide that the NREGA is not being implemented in the manner consistent with its objects, the High Court should take an active interest in at least ensuring that the Act is implemented to achieve its objects by the authorities concerned.

We, therefore, set aside the impugned order of the High Court and remand the matter to the High Court for fresh consideration in accordance with law.



COURT MASTER

COURT MASTER

(SIGNED ORDER IS PLACED ON THE FILE)