

(2022) 07 MP CK 0046
In the Madhya Pradesh High Court
Case No : Writ Petition No. 16439 Of 2022

Sunil Verma

APPELLANT

Vs

State Of Madhya Pradesh And Others

RESPONDENT

Date of Decision : 18-07-2022

Acts Referred:

Constitution Of India, 1950 — Article 226, 243O

Madhya Pradesh Panchayat Raj Avam Gram Swaraj Adhiniyam, 1993 — Section 122

Citation : (2022) 07 MP CK 0046

Hon'ble Judges : Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari, J

Bench : Single Bench

Advocate : Devendra Singh, G.K. Patel, Siddharth Seth

Final Decision : Dismissed

Judgement

Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari, J

In this petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, the petitioner is seeking declaration of the election for the post of Sarpanch Gram Panchayat Tihai, Janpad Panchayat Rampur Baghelan, District Satna to be null and void.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the seat for the post of Sarpanch of Gram Panchayat Tihai, Janpad Panchayat Rampur Baghelan, District Satna, was reserved for SC category but the respondent No.5 is being an OBC category had filed the nomination form for the election. In this regard, the petitioner has filed an objection before the respondent No.3 on 12.07.2022 (Annexure P/3), but no action whatsoever has been taken by the respondent No.3 to decide the objection. In these circumstances, direction may be issued to respondent No.3 to decide the same in accordance with law at the earliest.

Per contra, Shri Seth opposed the aforesaid contention and submitted that various disputed questions of fact are involved in the present case, which can only be done in the election petition. He further submitted that the present writ petition is not maintainable in view of the fact that the election has already been

notified on 27.05.2022 and thereafter results are to be declared on 14.7.2022. In support of his contention he has placed reliance on the judgment of the Apex court in the case of Laxmibai Vs. Collector, Nanded and others, reported in (2020)12 SCC 186 and

S.K.Mahaboob Bee (Smt.) and others Vs. State Election Commissioner and others, reported in (2000)10 SCC 512 to contend that the writ petition is not maintainable after the elections have been notified. However, he fairly stated that the petitioner has alternative remedy of filing election petition under Section 122 of the Madhya Pradesh Panchayat Raj Avam Gram Swaraj Adhiniyam, 1993 (hereinafter shall be referred to as "the Adhiniyam") after the election is over.

Constitutional amendment has been brought in the Constitution incorporating Section 243-O of the Constitution of India, relevant provisions whereof reads as under:-

"243-O. Bar to interference by courts in electoral matters.-Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution -

(a) xxx xxx xxx

(b) no election to any Panchayat shall be called in question except by an election petition presented to such authority and in such manner as is provided for by or under any law made by the Legislature of a State."

In the light of the substantive provisions for filing of election petition under Section 122 of the Adhiniyam and in view of the aforesaid pronunciation of law and keeping in view the Division Bench judgment of this Court passed in W.A. No.809/2022 (Gwalior Bench) dated 11.07.2022 so also looking to the fact that disputed questions of fact are involved in this case which cannot be adjudicated in the writ petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, this Court is not inclined to entertain this writ petition at this stage.

Accordingly, the petition stands dismissed. However, the petitioner would be at liberty to avail the remedy as available to him under Section 122 of the Adhiniyam at the appropriate time.

Certified copy today.