



2026:AHC:32226-DB

HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION (PIL) No. - 979 of 2025

Riyajuddin

.....Petitioner(s)

Versus

State of U.P. and 7 others

.....Respondent(s)

Counsel for Petitioner(s)	: Ajay Shankar, Triveni Shanker
Counsel for Respondent(s)	: C.S.C., Krishna Agrawal, Sanjay Kumar Singh, Sushil Kumar Pandey, Ved Prakash Mishra

Chief Justice's Court

HON'BLE ARUN BHANSALI, CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE KSHITIJ SHAILENDRA, J.

1. This petition, purportedly in public interest, has been filed by the petitioner seeking investigation into the alleged embezzlement of amount of Rs. 9.32 crore in the matter of installation of streetlights on Robertsganj Flyover over SH5A.
2. It was alleged in the petition that by a communication dated 30.10.2023 (Annexure-1), it was indicated by Executive Engineer, Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited ('PVVNL') that a sum of Rs. 9.32 crore was spent for putting up streetlights on Robertsganj Flyover, whereas the streetlights in fact were installed by U.P. State Highways Authority and the work was executed for a sum of Rs. 1,58,52,175/- as was reflected from the communication dated 30.04.2024 (Annexure-9), which necessarily means that a sum of Rs. 9.32 crore has been defalcated in the name of setting up of streetlights.
3. The respondents no. 4 and 5 i.e. Managing Director, PVVNL and the Executive Engineer, Vidyut Vitran Khand, PVVNL were directed to obtain instructions.
4. A counter affidavit was filed wherein it was indicated that the Executive Council of District Mineral Foundation Trust, in its meeting held on 15.04.2018, approved the work for installation of LED streetlights from Reliance Petrol Pump to Lori Hospital and from Toll Plaza to Saun

Eco Point for which an amount of Rs. 9,20,45,000/- was sanctioned, based on which an agreement was executed between the Grid Power System and the Superintending Engineer, PVVNL for the approved work.

5. In the meeting dated 17.06.2019 of the Executive Council of District Mineral Foundation Trust, objection was raised by the Commissioner, Vindhyachal Region *qua* the previously approved works, based on which the proposal of the work was changed and the same was approved on 11.07.2019.

6. Submissions were made that a wrong response to the RTI application was given to the petitioner in which it was indicated that a sum of Rs.9.32 crore was paid for installation of streetlights, in fact, a sum of Rs. 9,58,16,000/- was spent for the newly approved six works. It was indicated that in fact the work in question was not executed at the flyover, rather the same was undertaken at six different places including under the Robertsganj Flyover Bridge and therefore, the allegations made have no substance.

7. A rejoinder affidavit was filed by the petitioner along with a response received under the Right to Information Act, 2005 from the Nagar Palika Parishad, Sonbhadra wherein, on a query pertaining to the streetlights under the Robertsganj Flyover Bridge, it was indicated that prior to construction of the flyover, the Department had installed streetlights. It was submitted that again an incorrect plea has been raised, in fact, the amount has been defalcated.

8. We have considered the submissions made by counsel for the parties which are in terms of the plea raised in the petition, counter affidavit and the rejoinder affidavit.

9. The petition was filed based on the response received regarding putting up streetlights on Robertsganj Flyover by the PVVNL. In view of the fact that the streetlights were put up by U.P. State Highways Authority, the PVVNL by its counter affidavit clarified the position regarding lighting up six different stretches by LED lights including under the Robertsganj Flyover. The plea is sought to be contested based on the response given by Nagar Palika Parishad in reply to RTI query regarding putting up

streetlights under the flyover prior to its construction.

10. Admittedly, the flyover was completed in the year 2018, as to how long the construction of the flyover has taken is not known. However, once the indication made is that the streetlights were put up by the Nagar Palika Parishad prior to the construction of the flyover, the claim made by PVVNL of putting up LED lights under the over bridge at least 4 to 5 years after the construction of the over bridge would have probably started and as the existence of the LED lights is not disputed, the petitioner apparently is indulging in a witch hunt in seeking to somehow allege defalcation on part of the PVVNL authorities, which attempt cannot be appreciated.

11. Consequently, there is no substance in the writ petition, the same is therefore, **dismissed**.

(Kshitij Shailendra, J) (Arun Bhansali, CJ)

February 12, 2026

AHA