

HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH
AT SRINAGAR

WP(C) 92/2026 CM(512/2026).

Meema Akhtar.

...Applicant(s)/Petitioner(s)

Through: Mr. Imtiyaz Ahmad Sofi, Advocate.

VERSUS

Union Territory Of J And K And Ors.

...Respondent(s)

Through: Mr. Waseem Gul, Government Advocate.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAHUL BHARTI, JUDGE.

ORDER

04.03.2026

01. By virtue of an order **No. CDPO/ICDS/Lgt/Estt/16/561-64** dated **11.05.2016** passed by the Child Development Project Officer, (CDPO), ICDS, Langate, the petitioner came to be engaged on a monthly honorarium basis as an Anganwadi Worker for Anganwadi Center, Kultura Gogree Mohalla.
02. The petitioner's engagement came to be questioned by one Masrat Akhter by way of a writ petition- **SWP No. 1063/2016** preferred before this Court. Said writ petition came to be dismissed by this Court by virtue of an order dated **05.09.2022**.
03. In said order dated **05.09.2022**, this Court came to observe that the dismissal of said writ petition- **SWP No. 1063/2016** shall not come in the way of the eligible candidates who might challenge selection of the petitioner herein, figuring as respondent No. 4 in the writ petition- **SWP No. 1063/2016** by filling separate petition/s.

04. The engagement of the petitioner as an Anganwadi Worker, in terms of order **No. CDPO/ICDS/Lgt/Estt/16/561-64** dated **11.05.2016**, thereafter became the subject matter of challenge in an appeal before the Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara.

05. Said appeal was preferred by one- Zahida Parveen

06. Two persons namely Shamshada Akhter and Masrat Akhter came forward with a writ petition- **WP(C) No. 597/2020** wherein they came to challenge the outcome of the said appeal in which the petitioner's engagement as an Angawadi Worker had been challenged by Zahida Parveen before the Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara.

07. Said Writ petition- **WP(C) No. 597/2020** came to suffer dismissal in terms of writ court judgment dated **20.12.2024**.

08. A Letters Patent Appeal- **LPA No. 13/2025** preferred by the writ petitioners against said judgment also came to suffer the fate of dismissal in terms of order dated **24th February, 2025**.

09. It is in aforesaid backdrop that the petitioner has now approached this Court by way of the present writ petition, claiming that despite being engaged as an Anganwadi Worker for Anganwadi Centre Kultura Gogree Mohalla, she has not been paid the honorarium with effect from **May 2016**, along with all consequential benefits and for that purpose maintains the present petition for earning a writ of mandamus unto the writ respondents.

10. In the present context of the case, this Court deems it appropriate to dispose of the present writ petition with a direction to the respondent No. 3, i.e., Child Development Project Officer, ICDS

Langate, District Kupwara, to consider the case and claim of the petitioner that she was duly engaged as an Anganwadi Worker for Anganwadi Centre Kultura Gogree Mohalla in terms of Order No. **CDPO/ICDS/Lgt/Estt/16/561-64** dated **11.05.2016**, and despite having rendered her services, she has not been paid the honorarium along with the consequential benefits arising out of such engagement.

11. The Child Development Project Officer ICDS Langate is supposed to be fully aware of the state of affairs relating to running of Anganwadi Center Kultura Gogree Mohalla particularly in terms of the engagement and posting of an Anganwadi Worker for the said Center.

12. Once the petitioner was duly engaged for said assignment as an Anganwadi Worker, the question as to whether she suffered any disengagement by an express order is also an aspect which the Child Development Project Officer, ICDS Langate is required to examine.

13. In case the petitioner did not continue to carry out her engagement as an Anganwadi Worker, it is also for the Child Development Project Officer, ICDS Langate, to clarify whether any alternate arrangement was put in place for the said centre.

14. All these aspects are required to be duly considered and responded to by the Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), ICDS Langate by passing an order bearing reasons which would then enable the petitioner to know about the true state of affairs relating

to her status as an Anganwadi Worker for Anganwadi Center Kultura Gogree Mohalla.

15. Accordingly, this petition is **disposed** of with a direction to the Child Development Project Officer, Langate District Kupwara to consider the case and claim of the petitioner within a period of one month by passing a speaking order whereupon in case the petitioner would still feel prejudiced after the passing of such order, then she shall be well within her right to come up with the writ petition notwithstanding the disposal of the present writ petition.

(RAHUL BHARTI)
JUDGE

SRINAGAR
04.03.2026
Bisma Jan.

