

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH**

CWP No.26314 of 2014
Date of decision: 06.05.2015

Ravinderjit Singh and others

... Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others

... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ARUN PALLI

Present: Mr. Manmeet Singh Rana, Advocate,
for the petitioners.

1. Whether reporters of local papers may be allowed to see the judgment?
2. To be referred to the reporters or not?
3. Whether the judgment should be reported in the digest?

ARUN PALLI J. (Oral)

Writ in the nature of mandamus is prayed for so as to direct the respondents to grant grade pay of ₹ 2400/- to the petitioners, as is being afforded to the Conductors. Further, a direction is sought to the respondents to also grant two additional increments to the petitioners, as they would be eligible for consideration for further promotion to the post of Inspector only after 15 years of service. It is averred that the petitioners are engaged as Ticket Verifiers in different Depots of Punjab Roadways for the past more than two decades. Both Conductors and Ticket Verifiers were granted the pay scales of ₹ 950-1800 w.e.f. 01.01.1986. And the said scales were further revised to ₹ 3120-5160 w.e.f. 01.01.1996. Fitment table dated 27.05.2009 (Annexure P5) further shows that even this

scales i.e. ₹ 3120-5160, were revised w.e.f. 01.01.2006, and Conductors and Ticket Verifiers were placed in the same pay scales; ₹ 5910-20200 with grade pay of ₹ 1900/-. Government amended the Punjab Civil Services Rules, 2009, which were made applicable w.e.f. 01.12.2011, and revised the pay scales of some of the categories of employees including the pay scales of Punjab Roadways operational staff like Conductors etc. However, the Ticket Verifiers, who were till then in the same scale as Conductors, were left out. Pursuant to the revised scales, as amended on 21.12.2011, Conductors were granted the grade pay of ₹ 2400/- w.e.f. 01.12.2011, whereas the petitioners (Ticket Verifiers) continued to draw grade pay of ₹ 1900/-. That being so, respondents were served upon a legal notice dated 18.12.2012 (Annexure P7). But to no avail. So much so, even prior to the institution of this petition, petitioners again served the respondents another legal notice dated 24.06.2014 (Annexure P8) for redressal of their long pending grievance, but that too has failed to evoke any response.

Learned counsel for the petitioners submits that let this petition, at this stage, be disposed of only with a direction to the respondents, to consider and decide the legal notice (Annexure P8), served by the petitioners, within a specified time.

That being so, and without expressing any opinion on merits and particularly as regards the issue/question of delay or limitation, if any, this petition is disposed of only with a direction to the respondents, to consider and decide the claim of the petitioners, as set out in their legal notice dated 24.06.2014 (Annexure P8), strictly in accordance with law, within a period of 3 months from the receipt of certified copy of this order. Needless to assert, a comprehensive order shall be passed, assigning reasons in support of the decision arrived at.

May 6, 2015
Rajan

(Arun Palli)
Judge