

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

CWP No.9843 of 2015
Reserved on:28.08.2015
Date of decision: 02.09.2015

Sukhdev Singh

....Petitioner(s)

Versus

State of Punjab & others

...Respondent(s)

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE G.S.SANDHAWALIA

Present: Mr.Rupinder Khosla, Sr.Advocate
with Mr.K.S.Mamrat, Advocate, for the petitioner.

Mr.Aman Bahri, Addl.A.G., Punjab
Mr. H.S.Sethi, Addl.A.G., Punjab
Mr.A.P.S.Mann, Addl.A.G., Punjab
Mr.L.S.Virk, Addl.A.G., Punjab
Mr.Rakesh Verma, Sr.DAG, Punjab
and Mr.Pankaj Mulwani, DAG, Punjab.

G.S.SANDHAWALIA, J.

1. Challenge in the present writ petition is to the order dated 08.05.2015 (Annexure P11) whereby the benefit of extension in service to the petitioner has been denied and he has been retired on completion of 58 years of service.
2. Counsel for the State has placed on record the proceedings of the Committee held on 20.04.2015, which go on to show that the petitioner had been chargesheeted under Rule 8 of the Punjab Civil Services (Punishment & Appeals) Rules, 1970. The option of the officer regarding extension in service period was, accordingly, rejected on account of the instructions dated 30.10.2014.
3. The issue of extension in service has already been settled by a Co-ordinate Bench of this Court in CWP No.3826 of 2015 titled *Romesh Garg Vs. State of Punjab & others*, decided on 24.04.2015, wherein it was held that extension is a mere concession and the employee has no legal right. The issue of consideration of Rule 3.26 as substituted vide notification dated 08.10.2012 and

the instructions of even date alongwith the instructions dated 22.01.2013, 20.09.2013, 30.10.2014 and 07.01.2015, were subject matter of consideration. The said issue has been dealt with by the Co-ordinate Bench, by holding as under:

“In view of the above, it can safely be held that the petitioners have no vested right to seek extension in their services beyond the age of superannuation. To grant or not to grant extension is as per the discretion of the employer.

Further, since extension in service beyond the age of superannuation cannot be claimed as a matter of right, it virtually is by way of a concession given by the employer to its employee and once such extension is held to be by way of a concession, then there is no reason in law why the same cannot be unilaterally withdrawn for justifiable reasons and in public interest.”

4. The same view has been upheld in LPA No.776 of 2015 titled *Ashok Arora Vs. State of Punjab & others* decided on 20.05.2015. The Division Bench in the said case has further approved the reasoning given in the case of *Romesh Garg (supra)* and held that it was a correct statement of law and no elaborate discussion is required.

4. Faced with this situation, counsel for the petitioner is not in a position to controvert the said fact.

5. Accordingly, the present writ petition is dismissed, being covered by the above said cases. However, since the petitioner was granted interim protection on 18.05.2015 in terms of CWP No.510 of 2015 titled *Nirmal Kumar Dhir Vs. State of Punjab & others*, the petitioner would be entitled for the financial benefits from 18.05.2015 till today, as per the terms of extension of service. It is made clear that the interim protection granted to the petitioner shall stand vacated.

02.09.2015
sailesh

(G.S. SANDHAWALIA)
JUDGE