



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 03.10.2016

C O R A M

WEB COPY

THE HONOURABLE Dr.JUSTICE S.VIMALA

Writ Petition (MD) No.18856 of 2016

The Correspondent
St.Joseph's Higher Secondary School
Angelo Nagar, Muthupettai
Ramanathapuram District - 623 523. .. Petitioner

Vs.

- 1.The State of Tamil Nadu,
rep.by its Secretary,
Department of School Education,
Chennai - 600 009.
- 2.The Director of School Education
College Road, Chennai.
- 3.The Chief Educational Officer,
Ramanathapuram,
Ramanathapuram District.
- 4.The District Educational Officer,
Ramanathapuram,
Ramanathapuram District. .. Respondents

Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying for the issuance of a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus, calling for the records relating to the impugned proceedings of the fourth respondent DEO in a.Thi.Mu.No.6066/A4/2015 dated 00.06.2015 and quash the same and further direct the 4th respondent to approve the appointment of I.Roché Gilbert as BT Assistant (Tamil) in the petitioner's school with effect from 08.09.2014 and disburse the grant-in-aid towards his salary and allowance with effect from the said date.

For petitioner ... Mr.T.Cibi Chakraborty

For Respondents ... Mr.S.Kumar
Additional Government Pleader

O R D E R

This writ petition has been filed to quash the proceedings of the fourth respondent dated 00.06.2016 and consequently direct the fourth respondent to approve the appointment of I.Roché Gilbert as BT Assistant (Tamil) in the petitioner's school with effect from 08.09.2014 and disburse the grant-in-aid towards his salary and allowance with effect from the said date.

2. Heard the learned counsel for the petitioner and the learned Additional Government Pleader, who takes notice for the respondents. By consent, the writ petition itself is taken up for final disposal at the admission stage.

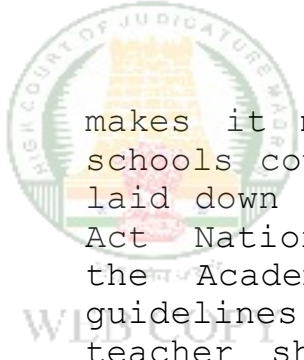
3. The petitioner school appointed one I.Roché Gilbert as BT Assistant (Tamil) on 08.09.2014 and submitted a proposal to the fourth respondent on 25.09.2016 requesting to approve his appointment. As no orders have been passed, the petitioner school resubmitted the proposal on 03.12.2014. The fourth respondent returned the proposal by the impugned proceedings dated 00.06.2015 stating that G.O.Ms.No.25, School Education (TRB) Department, dated 06.02.2014 was stayed by the High Court and directed the school to produce any Government Order or Government Letter if any, permitting approval to the appointment of the incumbent. Challenging the impugned proceedings, this Writ Petition has been filed.

4. The learned counsel for the petitioner has brought to the attention of this Court to the Judgment of the Division Bench of this Court in W.A.Nos.213 and 572 of 2016 etc. batch, dated 24.08.2016, wherein a direction was issued to the Government to release the salary of the Teachers and also to pay the arrears of salary within a period of two months.

5. Article 45 of the Constitution of India directed the States to endeavour to provide free and compulsory education to all children until they complete the age of 14 years and this should be done within a period of 10 years from the commencement of the Constitution. Article 45 was amended by the 86th Constitution Amendment Act, 2002 and it reads "the State shall endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of 14 year". Under the very same enactment, the right to education became a fundamental right to the children between the age group of 6 to 14. Thereafter, parliament enacted the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (hereinafter called "RTE Act") with the object of providing free education, which came into force from 01.04.2010.

<https://hcservices.ecourts.gov.in/hcservices/>

6. With the view to improve the quality of education and to provide quality education to children, Section 23 of the RTE Act



makes it mandatory for a person, who seeks appointment in the schools covered under RTE Act to possess minimum qualification as laid down by the Academic Authority. As per Section 23 (1) of RTE Act National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) was notified as the Academic Authority. The authority, while providing for guidelines to conduct Teacher Eligibility Test indicated that the teacher should have passed Teacher Eligibility Test (in short "TET") to be conducted by the appropriate Government in accordance with the guidelines in order to get appointment as Teacher.

6.1. Accepting this recommendation, the Government of Tamil Nadu issued G.O.Ms.No.181 School Education Department dated 15.11.2011. The Government also passed G.O.Ms.25 dated 06.02.2014, under which, the minimum marks to be obtained by various categories were prescribed was also quashed by the Hon'ble Division Bench. The constitutional validity of RTE Act was under challenge before the Supreme Court in the case of Society for Unaided Private Schools of Rajasthan vs. Union of India, 2012 (6) SCC 1. The Apex Court while upholding the constitutional validity held that the Act is applicable to all schools, except the unaided minority schools.

6.2. In the case of Pramati Educational and Cultural Trust vs. Union of India, 2014 (4) MLJ 486, the Hon'ble Supreme Court held that under Article 31 of the Constitution of India, all minorities, whether based on religion or language shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice and therefore, those institutions have a special constitutional right to establish and administer educational schools of their choice.

7. The Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court in the case of W.A.(MD) No.213 and 572 of 2016, based on the judgment in Pramati's case, held that G.O.181 dated 15.11.2011, which was issued prior to the directions of NCET, cannot be made applicable to minority institutions. The Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court in the said decision has only suggested that the minority institution may consider conducting a refresher course and also some interactive sessions in order to ensure the quality of teachers. Therefore, it is clear the impugned order passed is liable to be set aside in view of the legal position enunciated in W.A.(MD) No.213 and 572 of 2016.

8. Accordingly, the impugned order passed by the fourth respondent dated 00.06.2015 is set aside and the fourth respondent is directed to approve the appointment of Thiru.I.Roche Gilbert as BT Assistant (Tamil) in the petitioner school and disburse the grant-in-aid towards his salary and allowance with effect from the date of his appointment, viz., 08.09.2014 within a period of two months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.



9. With the above observation and direction, this Writ Petition is disposed of. No costs. Consequently, WMP(MD) Nos. 13647 and 13648 of 2016 are closed.

WEB COPY

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(AE)

/True Copy/

Sub-Assistant Registrar

To

1. The Secretary,
State of Tamil Nadu,
Department of School Education,
Chennai - 600 009.
2. The Director of School Education
College Road, Chennai.
3. The Chief Educational Officer,
Ramanathapuram,
Ramanathapuram District.
4. The District Educational Officer,
Ramanathapuram,
Ramanathapuram District.

+One cc to Mr. T. Cibi Chakraborty, Advocate, SR>No. 58245

+One cc to The Special Government Pleader, SR.No. 58287

mj

RL/7C/4P/KM/28.11.2016

Writ Petition (MD) No. 18856 of 2016

03.10.2016