



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 02.12.2016

CORAM :

THE HONOURABLE DR.JUSTICE S.VIMALA

W.P(MD)Nos.23475 to 23479 of 2016

Setupathi Higher Secondary School,
Represented by its Secretary,
No.2 & 3, Northveli Street,
Madurai.

... Petitioner in all WPs

vs.

The District Education Officer,
Madurai Education District,
Madurai.

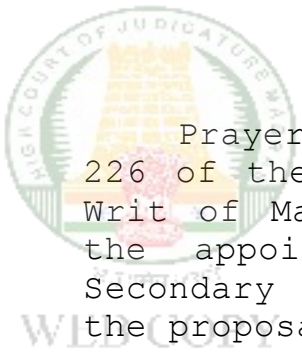
... Respondent in all WPs

Prayer in W.P(MD)No.23475/16 : Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying for the issuance of a Writ of Mandamus, directing the Respondent to grant approval to the appointment made by the Petitioner to Setupathi Higher Secondary School for the post of Watchman by considering the proposal of the Petitioner school dated 05.08.2016.

Prayer in W.P(MD)No.23476/16 : Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying for the issuance of a Writ of Mandamus, directing the Respondent to grant approval to the appointment made by the Petitioner to Setupathi Higher Secondary School for the post of Library Assistant by considering the proposal of the Petitioner school dated 26.08.2016.

Prayer in W.P(MD)No.23477/16 : Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying for the issuance of a Writ of Mandamus, directing the Respondent to grant approval to the appointment made by the Petitioner to Setupathi Higher Secondary School for the post of Gardener by considering the proposal of the Petitioner school dated 05.08.2016.

Prayer in W.P(MD)No.23478/16 : Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying for the issuance of a Writ of Mandamus, directing the Respondent to grant approval to the appointment made by the Petitioner to Setupathi Higher Secondary School for the post of Waterman by considering the proposal of the Petitioner school dated 05.08.2016.



Prayer in W.P(MD)No.23479/16 : Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying for the issuance of a Writ of Mandamus, directing the Respondent to grant approval to the appointment made by the Petitioner to Setupati Higher Secondary School for the post of Junior Assistant by considering the proposal of the Petitioner school dated 26.08.2016.

For Petitioner(in all WPs) : Mr.K.Govindarajan
For Respondent(in all WPs) : Mr.V.R.Shanmuganathan
Special Government Pleader

COMMON ORDER

These writ petitions have been filed for issuance of Writ of Mandamus, directing the respondent to grant approval to the appointments made by the petitioner to Setupati Higher Secondary School for the posts of Watchman, Library Assistant, Gardener, Waterman and Junior Assistant, by considering the proposals of the petitioner school dated 05.08.2016, 26.08.2016, 05.08.2016, 05.08.2016 and 26.08.2016 respectively.

2.Heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and the learned Special Government Pleader, who took notice for the respondent. By consent, these writ petitions are taken up for final disposal.

3.The petitioner school is an aided school and the school has appointed the following persons in the sanctioned vacancies.

Name	Appointed as	Vacancy
N.Chidambaram	Watchman w.e.f 01.08.2016	Promotional vacancy
A.Ayyannar	Library Assistant w.e.f. 09.08.2016	Retirement vacancy
V.Perumal Raj	Gardener w.e.f.01.08.2016	The then Incumbent of this post died
S.Vijayalakshmi	Waterman w.e.f. 01.08.2016	Promotional vacancy
R.Soundararajan	Junior Assistant w.e.f. 09.08.2016	Retirement vacancy

4.It is the grievance of the petitioner that the abovesaid proposals have not been considered so far. According to the petitioner, as per Tamil Nadu Recognized Private Schools (Regulation Act), no prior permission is required to fill up the abovesaid posts.

5.The learned counsel for the petitioner would submit that the school is governed by the Tamil Nadu Recognized Private Schools (Regulation) Act, 1973 and the Rules 1974 framed thereunder.



Section 19 stipulates the qualifications and the conditions of service of employees in private schools. Section 20 speaks about the conditions of appointment. In addition to that, the Tamil Nadu Minority Aided Schools (Recognition and Payment of Grant) Rules, 1977 also stipulates the rules in respect of **Administration of Aided Minority School**. Annexure - III of Rule 8 provides for the **sanctioning and appointment** of Library Clerk, Record Clerk and Laboratory and Library Assistants, Peons, Watchman, Waterman, Gardener, Sweeper and Scavenger in the Minority Aided Schools. The learned counsel for the petitioner further submitted that this proposition is covered by the Judgment of this Court dated 15.03.2016 passed in W.P.(MD)Nos.11481 of 2008, etc. batch.

6.It is seen that the Government of Tamil Nadu vide G.O.Ms.212, dated 29.11.2001 imposed ban on appointment of different categories of post, excepting Police, Doctors and Teachers. The ban was lifted vide G.O.14, dated 07.02.2006 enabling the fulfillment of non-teaching staff. G.O.Ms.115, dated 30.05.2007, directed filling up of certain categories of non-teaching staff by appointment and the remaining categories of non-teaching staff by outsourcing. Vide G.O.Ms.No.189, dated 29.07.2009, the vacancies of Junior Assistant and Office Assistant are to be filled upon on a priority basis. Subsequently, G.O.203 dated 23.07.2010 mandated that certain categories of non-teaching staff like Junior Assistant, Librarian, Laboratory Assistant, Record Clerk and Office Assistant are to be approved from the date of appointment.

7.The learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that once the post is sanctioned by the Director under Rule 15(1) of the Rules, sanction of grant ought to have been given as per Rule 11 (2) of the Rules and there is no need to get prior permission from any authority to fill the vacancies that would arise in the sanctioned post.

7.1.This Court is in entire agreement with the said submission. Since there is no such provision in the Act and the Rules to seek prior permission, the respondent could not rely on the Government Orders/Government Letters imposing condition seeking permission of the State Government or the Director or any authority to fill up the sanctioned posts for approving of the same for the purpose of grant.

7.2.The Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court in **The Manager, Concordia High and Higher Secondary Schools V. Tmt.S.Christy and Others**, reported in **2013 Writ L.R. 691** held as under:

"4.In considering the contentions as put forth in the writ petition, learned single Judge pointed out to the judgment passed by this Court in W.A.Nos.93 and 94 of 2009 decided on 06.01.2010 that for any sanctioned post, no prior approval is necessary. In respect of proceedings



noting the availability of posts, the learned single Judge pointed out that there is no necessity for prior approval. In any event, the appointment without getting approval could not be a ground for not considering the writ petitioner's plea"

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7.3.A similar question arose for consideration in the case of **S.Rasheetha Banu V. State of Tamil Nadu, rep. by its Secretary to Government, Chennai and others**, reported in **(2012) 4 MLJ 198** wherein this Court has categorically held that "if a person is appointed in a sanctioned post in the Private Aided Minority School, the approval cannot be rejected for the purpose of grant on the ground that no prior permission was obtained before appointment". It is useful to extract paragraph 7 of the said order in this regard :

"7.The issue involved in this Writ Petition was already considered by a Division Bench of this Court in W.A.No.1263 of 2001, dated 22.1.2004. In the said Judgment, it is held that if a person is appointed in a sanctioned post, the approval of appointment cannot be rejected and if there is fall in strength and the post become surplus, after granting approval of the post, the said teacher along with post could be transferred/deployed to a needy school. The said Judgment of the Division Bench was followed in W.P.(MD)No.11353 of 2008, dated 11.9.2009. As against the said order dated 11.9.2009, the department preferred W.A.(MD)No.703 of 2009. A Division Bench of this Court, by Judgment dated 1.2.2011, dismissed the said Writ Appeal."

8.The question of approval to the appointment of non-teaching staff in the sanctioned post after the introduction of G.O.Ms.No.115 and G.O.203 came to be considered by this Court and the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court quashed G.O.Ms.115, dated 30.05.2007 and G.O.203, dated 23.07.2010, vide order, dated 15.03.2016 passed in W.P.(MD)Nos.11481 of 2008, etc. batch. It will be appropriate to extract the operative portion of the order as under:

"38. In the result, for the details reasons mentioned above,

(i) All these writ petitions are allowed.

(ii) Impugned G.Os., namely, G.O.Ms.No.115, School Education Department, dated 30.05.2007 and G.O.Ms.No.203, School Education Department, dated 23.07.2010 and Government Letter No.8884/D1/2011-2, dated 09.07.2012, are quashed.

(iii) The impugned orders of the DEOs/DEEOs refusing to approve of the appointments of various non-teaching posts in these writ petitions are set aside and the official respondents are directed to approve of those appointments



of the non-teaching staff in the Private Aided Schools concerned in these writ petitions and to sanction grant."

9. In view of the above stated position and also in the light of the Judgment of this Court in W.P(MD)Nos.11481 of 2008, etc. batch (stated supra), these writ petitions are allowed and the respondent is directed to accord approval to the appointments made by the petitioner with effect from the dates of appointment mentioned supra, with all monetary and other service benefits, within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. No costs.

Sd/-

Deputy Registrar(Admn)

/TRUE COPY/

Sub Assistant Registrar

nbi

To

The District Education Officer,
Madurai Education District,
Madurai.

+5CC to Mr.K.Govindarajan, Advocate Sr.No.79890

+1CC to Spl.Government Pleader Sr.No.79473

GJM/GSV/PM/5.1.17-5p-8C

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