

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH

CWP No. 15427 of 2016 (O&M)

Date of Decision: 23.08.2016.

Smt. Bhupa Sharma

--Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana and others

--Respondents

CORAM:- HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE TEJINDER SINGH DHINDSA.

Present:- Mr. Ramesh Malik, Advocate for the petitioner.

TEJINDER SINGH DHINDSA.J

Petitioner is serving as a Science Mistress under the Department of School Education, State of Haryana. She is currently posted at Govt. Senior Secondary School, Sector 19, Panchkula.

The instant petition has been filed raising a grievance that a Transfer Policy issued by the State Govt. on 29.6.2016 (Annexure P-2) has been made a subject of clarification vide letter dated 22.7.2016 (Annexure P-4) and by applying such clarification the petitioner would now be eligible to be transferred out from her present place of posting.

Counsel would submit that as per policy dated 29.6.2016 (Annexure P-2) and in particular para 7 (i) (b) a **deemed vacancy** has been defined i.e. only in relation to a post where a teacher has completed a tenure of 5 years in a particular school. As per clarification dated 22.7.2016 (Annexure P-4) such definition stands altered to mean a period of 5 years in a particular zone as opposed to the particular school.

Counsel argues that the petitioner had joined on the present place of posting on 16.5.2012 and if the original policy dated 29.6.2016 was to hold the field and under para 7 (i) (b) thereof the petitioner was not

occupying a deemed vacancy and as such, could not have been transferred. Challenge as such is being laid to the clarification contained in order dated 22.7.2016 (Annexure P-4) which has enlarged the scope of the definition of deemed vacancy to include a tenure of 5 years even in relation to a zone as opposed to a particular school. As per counsel, such clarification is arbitrary inasmuch as by way of process of interpretation the basic policy itself has been changed. Counsel relies upon a judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *State of Bihar Vs. Subhash Singh, 1997 (4) S.C.C., 430* to contend that administrative action is an essential part of the rule of law and whenever there is any arbitrariness therein the same would be open by way of intervention by this Court by in exercise of powers under Article 226 of the Constitution of India by way of judicial review.

Yet another submission raised by counsel is that the Transfer Policy dated 29.6.2016 (Annexure P-2), even though, issued from the office of Additional Chief Secretary to Govt., Haryana, School Education Department but the same had been approved by the Cabinet, whereas the impugned clarification dated 22.7.2016 has been issued by the office of Additional Chief Secretary to Govt., Haryana, School Education Department without taking the matter up to Cabinet and as such, suffers from an inherent lack of jurisdiction.

Having heard counsel for the petitioner at length and having perused the pleadings on record, this Court is of the considered view that the instant petition is completely bereft of merit and deserves dismissal.

Transfer Policies issued by the State Govt. and the stipulations contained therein do not vest an enforceable right in an employee. A Transfer Policy can never be taken to the pedestal of a statutory rule. These

policies are at best in the nature of guidelines for the appropriate department while issuing orders of transfer.

In the present case a transfer order in so far as the petitioner is concerned, has not been passed. Petitioner has filed the instant petition apprehending an order of transfer. As per petitioner, by virtue of the clarification dated 22.7.2016 she has now been rendered eligible for transfer as she has completed more than 4 years in a particular zone. Case of the petitioner is that the original policy of 29.6.2016 should hold the field and the petitioner should be held to be not eligible to be transferred as she has not completed 5 years tenure on her present place of posting i.e. at Govt. Senior Secondary School, Sector 19, Panchkula.

The clarification dated 22.7.2016 (Annexure P-4) has been perused. The Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. Haryana, School Education Department has also referred to para 8 (iii) of the original policy dated 29.6.2016, wherein it was stated that *“in case a teacher has 35 years of service left, then he/she gets to select 7 zones in order of his/her preference...”*. Accordingly, a view has been taken that a teacher would normally stay only 5 years in a particular zone. What flows apparently is that such clarification would not be an altercation or a change of the original policy. The clarification to which the petitioner is aggrieved of is relatable to the original policy itself. Under such circumstances, the submission made by counsel that the clarification has been issued by an official who was not competent to do so, lacks merit. The original policy in any case had met approval of the Cabinet. It was certainly open for respondent no.1 to resort to a clarification keeping in view the intent and objective for which the original Transfer Policy had been issued.

Even otherwise, the petitioner has completed more than 4 years of tenure at her existing place of posting. Transfer is an incidence of service. Even if it was assumed that the original policy dated 29.6.2016 (Annexure P-2) is to be applied and the clarification dated 22.7.2016 (Annexure P-4) is not to be taken in account, still, no enforceable right vests with the petitioner. In any case the present petition is only founded on an apprehension that an order of transfer would now follow.

No ground for interference is made out.

Petition is dismissed.

(TEJINDER SINGH DHINDSA)
JUDGE

23.08.2016

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Whether speaking/reasoned: Yes

Whether Reportable: Yes