

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

**(1) Civil Writ Petition No. 19351 of 2015 (O&M)
Date of Decision: 05.10.2016**

Vivek Chaudhary and others
..... Petitioners
Versus

State of Punjab and others
..... Respondents

(2) Civil Writ Petition No. 19874 of 2015 (O&M)

Sikander Singh and others
..... Petitioners
Versus

State of Punjab and others
..... Respondents

(3) Civil Writ Petition No. 19915 of 2015 (O&M)

Dilpreet Singh Dhillon and others
..... Petitioners
Versus

State of Punjab and others
..... Respondents

(4) Civil Writ Petition No. 19980 of 2015 (O&M)

Sunpreet Singh and others
..... Petitioners
Versus

State of Punjab and others
..... Respondents

(5)

Civil Writ Petition No. 20000 of 2015 (O&M)

Nirmal Singh and others

..... Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others

..... Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JASWANT SINGH

Present: Mr. Ranjivan Singh, Advocate
for the petitioner(s)
(in CWP Nos. 19351, 19915 & 20000 of 2015).

Mr. Jasvir Singh Dhaliwal, Advocate for
Mr. Harchand Singh Batth, Advocate
for the petitioner(s) **(in CWP No. 19874 of 2015)**

Mr. Gagandeep Singh, Advocate
for the petitioner(s) **(in CWP No. 19980 of 2015).**

Mr. Harsimran Singh Sethi, Addl. A.G., Punjab
for the respondents/State.

JASWANT SINGH, J. (ORAL)

This common order shall dispose of the aforesaid five writ petitions as the same involve similar facts and raise identical issues.

The petitioners, in all the writ petitions, possess qualification of 10+2 and a Patwar Course (one and half years) Certificate from private institutions. They were aspirants for appointment against 1227 posts of Revenue Patwaris advertised by the Director Land Records, Punjab vide advertisement dated 18.08.2015 **(Annexure P-6)**. The online application forms of the petitioners were not entertained as they were not fulfilling the laid down qualification of Graduation, hence, the present set of writ petitions.

In the light of interim directions passed by this Court vide order dated 14.09.2015, all the petitioners were permitted to submit their manual application forms, and to undertake the written test being part of the selection process, subject to the decision of the present writ petitions.

The claim of the petitioners is that most of the advertised vacancies relate to the period prior to 28.10.2014, when a notification dated 28.10.2014 (**Annexure P-5**) was issued amending the Punjab Revenue Patwaris, Class-III Service Rules, 1966, and for the post of Revenue Patwaris, one of the essential qualifications prescribed was “Graduation” in place of the earlier unamended qualification of “10+2”, therefore, it was asserted that the petitioners be treated as eligible against the vacancies as per the unamended rules.

Upon notice, reply in one of the petition bearing CWP No. 19351 of 2015 has been filed.

It is asserted that the amendment vide notification (**P-5**) were carried out in the light of directions passed by this Court on 12.02.2013 in a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) bearing CWP No. 11861 of 2011-Court on its own Motion Versus State of Punjab and Others, directing that the land records should be computerized and digitized. It is in this background that the enhanced qualification of Graduation as also knowledge of computers was incorporated in the 1966 Rules.

At the time of hearing, learned State Counsel *inter alia* submits that other similar writ petitions raising identical issues have since been dismissed by learned Single Bench of this Court vide decision dated 15.09.2016 in writ petition bearing CWP No. 19550 of 2015 titled Rajat

Bench of this Court vide decision dated 26.07.2016.

At this stage, learned counsel for the petitioners submit that earlier advertisement **(P-6)** qua 1227 posts of Revenue Patwaris stands withdrawn, and thereafter a fresh advertisement has been issued on 10.09.2016, therefore, they pray for permission to withdraw the present set of writ petitions.

Dismissed as withdrawn.

October 05, 2016

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**(JASWANT SINGH)
JUDGE**

Whether Speaking/reasoned	Yes/No
Whether Reportable	Yes/No