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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ W.P.(C) 6099/2016 and C.M. No.36701/2016 (for release of retiral benefits by petitioner no.6)

SONIA BABLANI AND ORS.

..... Petitioners

Through: Ms. Rashmi Chopra, Advocate with
Ms. Asiya, Advocate.

versus

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI & ORS

..... Respondents

Through: Mr. Peeyosh Kalra, ASC with Mr.
Shiva Sharma, Advocate and Ms.
Sona Bahhar, Advocate for
respondent No.2.

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VALMIKI J. MEHTA

ORDER

% **08.12.2016**

1. Petitioners are employees of the government school which is respondent no.5 in this writ petition. Once petitioners are employees of government school run by the Government of NCT of Delhi, any issue with regard to service conditions or service disputes of petitioners with the Government of NCT of Delhi will have to be decided by the Central Administrative Tribunal(CAT), Principal Bench, New Delhi because Government of NCT of Delhi is covered in the list of institutions disputes of

which with its employees are to be decided by the CAT. It is only the CAT which will have jurisdiction in view of para 99 of the Constitution Bench judgment of the Supreme Court in the case of ***L. Chandra Kumar vs. Union of India & Ors. (1997) 3 SCC 261***, and which para 99 reads as under:-

“99. In view of the reasoning adopted by us, we hold that Clause 2(d) of Article 323A and Clause 3(d) of Article 323B, to the extent they exclude the jurisdiction of the High Courts and the Supreme Court under Articles 226/227 and 32 of the Constitution, are unconstitutional. Section 28 of the Act and the "exclusion of jurisdiction" clauses in all other legislations enacted under the aegis of Articles 323A and 323B would, to the same extent, be unconstitutional. The jurisdiction conferred upon the High Courts under Articles 226/227 and upon the Supreme Court under Article 32 of the Constitution is part of the inviolable basic structure of our Constitution. While this jurisdiction cannot be ousted, other courts and Tribunals may perform a supplemental role in discharging the powers conferred by Articles 226/227 and 32 of the Constitution. The Tribunals created under Article 323A and Article 323B of the Constitution are possessed of the competence to test the constitutional validity of statutory provisions and rules. All decisions of these Tribunals will, however, be subject to scrutiny before a Division Bench of the High Court within whose jurisdiction the concerned Tribunal falls. The Tribunals will, nevertheless, continue to act like Courts of first instance in respect of the areas of law for which they have been constituted. It will not, therefore, be open for litigants to directly approach the High Courts even in cases where they question the vires of statutory legislations (except where the legislation which creates the particular Tribunal is challenged) by overlooking the jurisdiction of the concerned Tribunal. Section 5(6) of the Act is valid and constitutional and is to be interpreted in the manner we have indicated.” (underling added)

2. Accordingly, instead of dismissing this petition, this petition is

transferred for decision to CAT, Principal Bench, New Delhi. Parties to appear before the Registrar of CAT on 21st December, 2016. Registry to ensure that file of this case is available to Registrar of CAT on the date fixed.

VALMIKI J. MEHTA, J

DECEMBER 08, 2016
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