

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED :26.07.2017

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THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE S.M.SUBRAMANIAM

W.P. Nos.16330 & 16331 OF 2016 &
WMP Nos 14129 & 14130 of 2016

M.Pushpavalli .. Petitioner in W.P.No.16330 of 2016

M.Pushpavathy .. Petitioner in W.P.No.16331 of 2016
 Vs

1 State of Tamilnadu
 rep. by its Secretary to Government
 Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department
 Fort St. George, Chennai-600 009

2 The Director
 Commissionerate of Rural Development &
 Panchayat Raj
 Panagal Building,
 Saidapet, Chennai-600 015

3 The District Collector
 Kancheepuram District,
 Kancheepuram. .. Respondents in both W.Ps.

PRAYER in both W.Ps. : Petitions filed Under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue of Writ of mandamus, to direct the respondents herein to forthwith sanction revised pension and other retirement benefits due to the petitioners herein by counting 50% of the services rendered during 01.12.1981 to 15.07.1993 by the petitioners herein in the post of Panchayat Clerk based on the orders in G.O.111, Rural Development and Panchayat (P.A.5) Department dated 14.3.2016 issued in respect of other similarly placed Panchayat Clerks and consequently pay arrears of difference in pension and other monetary benefits with due interest in accordance with law .

For Petitioners : Mr.V.R.Rajasekaran

For Respondents : Mr.S.Gunasekaran
Addl.Govt.Pleader

COMMON ORDER

The relief sought for in these Writ Petitions are common. These Writ Petitions have been filed to direct the respondents herein to forthwith sanction revised pension and other retirement benefits due to the petitioners herein by counting 50% of the services rendered during 01.12.1981 to 15.07.1993 by the petitioners herein in the post of Panchayat Clerk based on the orders in G.O.111, Rural Development and Panchayat (P.A.5) Department dated 14.3.2016 issued in respect of other similarly placed Panchayat Clerks and consequently pay arrears of difference in pension and other monetary benefits with due interest in accordance with law .

2.The learned counsel appearing for the writ petitioners contended that the issue involved in these Writ Petitions have been considered by two different Hon'ble Division Benches of this Court, on the same line. The first Judgement was pronounced on 11th April, 2016 in W.A.No.431 of 2016 and the following paragraphs

of the Judgement are relevant for the purpose of deciding these Writ Petitions:

"4 The State Government took a policy decision by G.O.Ms.No.39, Rural Development and Panchayat (E5) Department dated 13 June 2011, (for short "G.O. Ms.No.39") whereunder, it was clearly observed that an employee, working in Panchayat as Full Time Clerk or Part Time Clerk and having been absorbed by the Government prior to 01 April 2003, will be entitled to counting 50% of the service as part time employee under the consolidated pay for the purpose of computation of pensionary benefits. Subsequently, the said Government Order, as pleaded by the learned Special Government Pleader appearing for the appellants, was amended by G.O.Ms.No.77, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department dated 12 July 2013 (for short "G.O. Ms.No.77"), whereunder, counting of 50% of service in case of Part Time Clerks was withdrawn.

5 In the case on hand, indisputably, the respondents 1 and 2 were absorbed as Junior Assistant before 01 April 2003, subsequent to which the first respondent was promoted as Assistant and retired from service on 31 4 December 2009 and the second respondent retired as Cashier on 30 June 2007. Thus, the respondents 1 and 2 are entitled to the benefit as

granted in G.O.Ms.No.39 and the subsequent Government Order in G.O.Ms.No.77, would not be applicable to those employees, who were entitled to the benefit before issuance of the said Government Order.

6 The learned single Judge has rightly come to the conclusion that 50% of the service period put in by the respondents 1 and 2 under the consolidated pay by way of part time employment will be computed for pensionary benefits. We do not find any reason to take a view contrary to the one taken by the learned single Judge.

With the aforesaid observations, the writ appeal stands dismissed. No costs. Consequently, connected C.M.P. is closed. "

3. Another Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court passed a Judgment on 24th June 2016 in W.A.No.612 of 2016, as extracted under:

"3. The grievance of the first respondent is that the services rendered by him as Part Time Panchayat Clerk was not taken into consideration while calculating pension. Therefore, he filed a writ petition and the same was allowed on 27.6.2014, along with similar writ petitions, holding that 50% of the services rendered by the writ petitioners as Part Time Panchayat Clerk

should be taken into account while calculating pension and directing the concerned authority to calculate and issue orders granting pension and other benefits within a period of three months and to implement the same within a period of one month thereafter. Aggrieved by the same, the appellants have come up with this appeal.

4. As against the order of the learned single Judge dated 27.6.2014 3 passed in a batch of writ petitions, one of the writ petitioner, filed W.A.No.431 of 2016. A Division Bench of this Court, by judgment dated 11.4.2016, dismissed the appeal, holding that the learned single Judge had rightly concluded that the 50% of the services rendered by the petitioners therein under the consolidated pay by way of part time employment has to be taken into account for pensionary benefits.

5. In view of the decision of the Division Bench of this Court dated 11.4.2016 made in W.A.No.431 of 2016, this writ appeal is also dismissed in terms of the above judgment. There shall be no order as to costs. Consequently, CMP No.8080 of 2016 is closed. "

4.The learned counsel appearing for the petitioners contended that the Judgments of the Hon'ble Division Benches were implemented by the respondents in G.O.(P) No.111 RD & Panchayat Raj (PA5) Department dated 14.3.2016. Thus the writ petitioners herein are also eligible to get the same benefits extended to the other similarly placed employees worked as part time employees and absorbed as regular employees in the cadre of Junior Assistant.

5.The learned Additional Government Pleader opposed the contentions raised by the writ petitioners by stating that the writ petitioners are not eligible to get the benefits, as contended by the learned counsel for the writ petitioners.

6.Since the issue has been decided by the two different Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court on the same line, no exception can be drawn, by considering the arguments advanced by the learned Additional Government Pleader in this regard.

7.In this view of the matter, all these Writ Petitions stand disposed and the benefits granted by the two different Division Benches of this Court in W.A.No.431 of 2016 dated 11th April, 2016 and in W.A.No.612 of 2016, dated 24th June 2016, respectively are

directed to be extended to these Writ Petitioners also. No costs.
Consequently, connected Miscellaneous Petitions are closed.

26.07.2017

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To

- 1 State of Tamilnadu
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S.M.SUBRAMANIAM,J.

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