

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 22.09.2017

CORAM:

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

W.P.No.25578 of 2017

and

W.M.P.No.26970 of 2017

The Congregation of the
Immaculate Heart of Mary Pondicherry,
St. Anne's Girls Higher Secondary School,
Pudupalayam, Cuddalore - 1,
represented by its Correspondent,
Rev.Sr.D.Little Flower ... Petitioner

Vs

- 1.The Secretary,
Government of Tamilnadu,
School Education Department,
Fort St. George, Chennai 600 009
 - 2.The Director of School Education,
Higher Secondary Education,
College Road, Chennai - 600 006.
 - 3.The Chief Educational Officer,
Chief Educational Office,
Cuddalore - 607 001,
Cuddalore District.
 - 4.The District Educational Officer,
District Educational Office,
Cuddalore - 607 001,
Cuddalore District.
- सत्यमेव जयते... Respondents

Prayer: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India seeking a writ of Certiorarified Mandamus to call for the records relating to the order of the fourth respondent made in Na.Ka.No.8772/A3/2017 dated 11.05.2017 and to quash the same in the light of the judgments rendered by this Hon'ble Court in WP No.487 to 492 of 2014 dated 02.02.2016, Writ Appeal No.308 of 2008, WA No.456 of 2008 dated 04.08.2008, WP (Md) No.19531 of 2014 dated 19.04.2017 as well as the judgment of this Hon'ble Court in W.P.(Md) No.14115 of 2016 dated 19.08.2016 by directing the respondents particularly the fourth respondent to entertain and approve the appointment of S.Lakshmi made by the petitioner in the sanctioned and approved post of

"Office Assistant" from the date of appointment (i.e.,) dated 01.06.2012 with all emoluments and salary in the St.Anne's Girls Higher Secondary School, Cuddalore - 1 is concerned.

For Petitioner : Mr. M.Joseph Thatheus Jerome
For Respondents: Mr.M.Perumal
Government Advocate

ORDER

Challenging the impugned action of the State in retuning the Proposal submitted by the respective Minority/Non-Minority Schools, seeking to approve the appointments made by them against the sanctioned vacancies in the Non-Teaching Posts, the writ petition has been filed.

2. Heard both sides.

3. It is submitted by the learned counsel for the petitioner that, as and when vacancies arose against the regular & sanctioned posts relating to Non-Teaching staff in various cadres, the Aided Minority/Non-Minority Schools concerned had filled up the same by appointing suitable hands without prior permission to fill up those vacancies and, while this practice continued till the academic year 2000-2001 with the Government according approval to such appointments regularly. Now, by way of the present impugned proceedings, the Education Department have returned the proposals sent by the Minority/Non-Minority Institutions, seeking approval for the appointment of Non-Teaching Staff, by holding such exercise is arbitrary and absolutely unwarranted.

4. The issue involved in the writ petition for filling up of vacancies against the sanctioned strength of Non-teaching staff by the Minority/Non-Minority Institutions is no longer res integra, for, a Division Bench of this Court, even three years ago, in P.Ravichandran v. State of Tamil Nadu and others reported in [(2013) 7 MLJ 641], has settled that issue and, following the said judgment, I have also, in a batch of writ petitions, i.e., in W.P.(MD)Nos.14115 to 14119 of 2016 etc. (batch cases), (decided on 19.08.2016), ordered the official respondents therein to accord approval for filling up of the vacancies against sanctioned posts of non-teaching Staff by the Private Aided Schools. For better appreciation, relevant portions of the order passed by this Court are extracted below:-

"2.With regard to the legal position in respect of minority institutions, whether prior permission should be obtained before filling up any vacancy in a sanctioned Post, the Honourable Division Bench of this Court even three years ago, in P.Ravichandran v.

State of Tamil Nadu and others reported in (2013) 7 MLJ 641, has settled the issue. It is relevant to extract paragraph Nos.17 and 20 of the above said judgment:-

17. A Division Bench of Madurai Bench of this Court in W.A(MD)No.462 of 2006, judgment, dated 01.12.2006, considered the scope of Rule 11(1) of the Tamil Nadu Private Colleges(Regulation) Rules, 1976 relying upon the earlier order passed on 13.08.2006, and held that for filling up an existing post in a Private Aided College, no prior approval is necessary as any such appointment shall be subsequently approved by the Department, and at that point of time the Department would have an opportunity to consider the availability of such post and rejection of approval on the ground that no prior approval was obtained before appointment, was set aside. Same is the view taken in the following orders of this Court .

(i) W.P.No.30618 of 2005, order dated 21.09.2005;

(ii) W.P.No.28396 of 2004, order dated 29.03.2006;

(iii) W.A.Nos.92 & 93 of 2008, judgment dated 06.01.2010;

(iv) W.P(MD)No.174 of 2009, order dated 27.04.2010;

(v) W.A.Nos.140, 811/2006 & 805/2007, judgment dt. 21.10.2010;

(vi) W.A.No.2858 of 2010, judgment dated 21.03.2011;

(vii) W.A(MD)Nos.1088 of 2011, judgment dated 19.10.2011;

(viii) W.A.Nos.2345 of 2011, judgment dated 05.03.2012;

(ix) Dr.S.Sukumaran v. State of Tamil Nadu, (2012) 5 MLJ 670 rendered by one of us (NPVJ); and

(x) W.A.No.474 of 2013, judgment dated 03.04.2013.

Thus, the issue regarding seeking prior permission for filling up the vacant post in aided College within the academic year was already settled in series of decisions and all the above said orders are implemented by the respondents 1 and 2. In such circumstances, it is not open to the respondents to again and again contend that only after getting prior permission from the

Director of Collegiate Education, vacant sanctioned posts can be filled up by the management.

.....

20. In the light of the above findings as well as the decisions, we conclude this judgment in the following manner:

(1) There is no requirement under the Tamil Nadu Private Colleges (Regulation) Act, 1976 and Tamil Nadu Private Colleges (Regulation) Rules, 1976, to seek prior permission to fill up any vacant post in an aided college, which has already been sanctioned for the academic year by the Director of Collegiate Education under Rule 11(1) of the Rules.

(2) If the appointment made by the College Committee in the sanctioned vacant post is in violation of any of the statutory provision, it is open to the Regional Joint Director of Collegiate Education to deny grant-in-aid to the said person appointed in the vacant post.

(3) The teaching staff appointed must be fully qualified, whose qualification is approved by the University to which the college is affiliated. Insofar as the non-teaching staff are concerned, the candidate must possess the qualification prescribed by the Government.

(4) The College Committee while filling up the vacant post, should follow the procedures stated in Rule 11(1A) to 11(4) (ii).

(5) If there is no rival candidate for any post, the appointment is bound to be approved for the purpose of payment of pay and allowances, by the Regional Joint Director of Collegiate Education.

The writ appeal is disposed of with the above directions. No Costs.

3.A cursory reading of the aforementioned Honourable Division Bench judgment in (2013) 7 MLJ 641, clearly shows that the issue raised in the present Writ Petitions, is no longer res integra, because the Honourable Division Bench of this court in the aforementioned judgment has also made it clear that there is no requirement under the Tamil Nadu Private Colleges (Regulation) Act, 1976 and Tamil Nadu Private Colleges (Regulation) Rules,

1976, to seek prior permission to fill up any vacant post in an aided college, which has already been sanctioned for the academic year by the Director of Collegiate Education under Rule 11(1) of the Rules.

4. Therefore, the issues raised in the present Writ Petitions having been settled by this Court, I have no hesitation to accept the prayer made by the petitioners.

5. In the result,

(i) All the Writ Petitions are allowed.

(ii) The impugned orders are set aside.

(iii) The respective respondents are directed to approve the appointments of non-teaching staff in the Private Aided Schools in these cases and to sanction grant, within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order."

5. Thus, the issue is well settled now that any school, either minority/Non-Minority/private/aided or unaided, is entitled to fill up the vacancy arising on account of promotion, retirement, removal, dismissal etc., against a sanctioned post already approved by the school authorities, without even obtaining prior permission from the Government. In the cases on hand, admittedly, the writ petitioner has been appointed against vacancies relating to sanctioned posts as Non-teaching staff in various cadres and therefore, by following the above cited case laws, this Court hereby directs the respective respondents to approve the appointments of the Non-teaching staff by the Private Aided Schools and to sanction the grant within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

6. In fine, for the reasons stated above, the writ petition is allowed by quashing the impugned orders. Consequently, the connected Miscellaneous Petitions are closed. However, there shall be no order as to costs.

Sd/-

Asst.Registrar (CS III)

/true copy/

Sub Asst. Registrar

To

1.The Secretary,
Government of Tamilnadu,
School Education Department,
Fort St. George, Chennai 600 009

2.The Director of School Education,
Higher Secondary Education,
College Road, Chennai - 600 006.

3.The Chief Educational Officer,
Chief Educational Office,
Cuddalore - 607 001,
Cuddalore District.

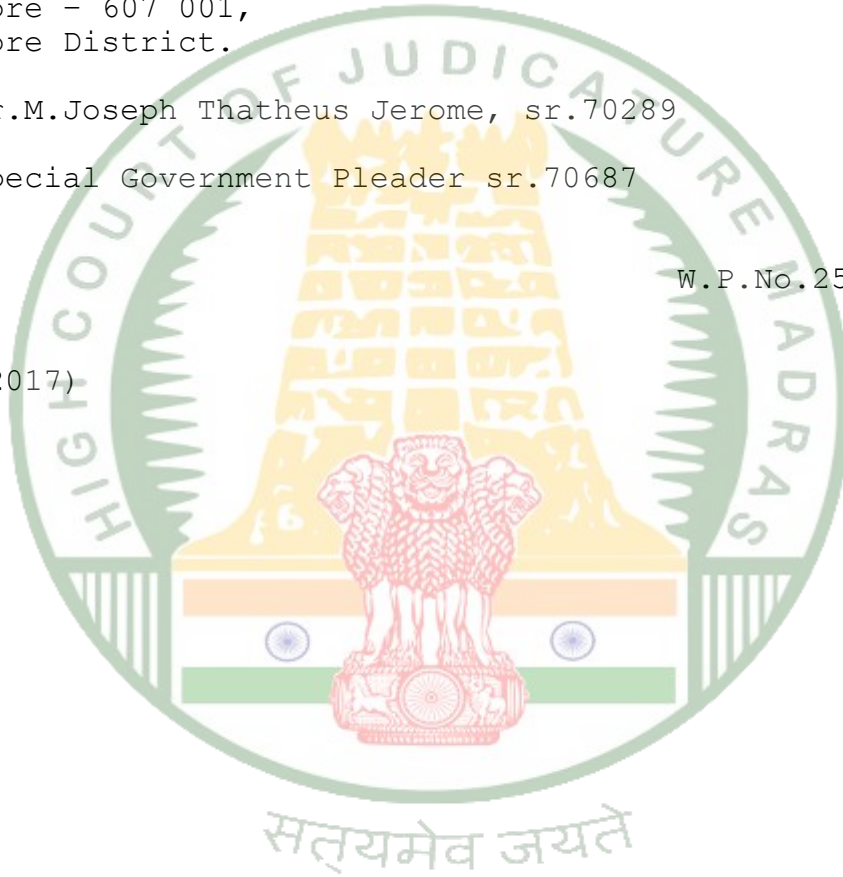
4.The District Educational Officer,
District Educational Office,
Cuddalore - 607 001,
Cuddalore District.

+1cc to Mr.M.Joseph Thatheus Jerome, sr.70289

+1cc to Special Government Pleader sr.70687

W.P.No.25578 of 2017

cp(co)
ss(23/10/2017)



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