

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 07.08.2017

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THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE S.M.SUBRAMANIAM

W.P.No.18673 of 2017 &
W.M.P.No.20211 of 2017

C.Annamalai,
Force No.871160791,ASI/GD,
Quarter No.2187,Type-II,
A-Block(Old),Group Centre,
Central Reserve Police Force.
Avadi,Chennai-600 065.

..Petitioner

Versus

1. The Inspector General of Police,
Karnataka-Kerala(KK) Sector,
Central Reserve Police Force,
Group Centre,Doddaballapur Road,
Yelahanka,Bangalore-560 064.
2. The Deputy Inspector General of Police,
Group Centre, Central Reserve Police Force,
Avadi, Chennai-600 065.

सत्यमेव जयते..Respondents

Prayer: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying for the issuance of Writ of Mandamus, directing the respondents to rehabilitate the petitioner by providing lighter duty at Group Centre,Avadi, Chennai as enumerated in the Central Reserve Police Force Standing Order No.04/2011 dated 27.07.2011.

For Petitioner :M/s.J.Lakshmi Narayanan

For Respondents :Mr.G.Rajagopalan
Assistant Solicitor General Of India
Asstd by Mrs.MeenaKumari
Central Govt Standing Counsel

ORDER

The petitioner has come forward with this Writ Petition to direct the respondents to rehabilitate the petitioner by providing lighter duty at Group Centre,Avadi, Chennai as enumerated in the Central Reserve Police Force Standing Order No.04/2011 dated 27.07.2011.

2.The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner contended that while the petitioner was serving in Avadi, Chennai, during September, 2013, he was detailed by the competent authority to purchase condiments from the local market for supply in super market maintained at Group Centre Campus, Avadi. At the time of loading the oil tin of 15 kg, fell on his right leg knee and anterior cruciate ligament was torn. In that regard, the petitioner also undergone surgery of ACL tear re-construction during October, 2013 and he was advised to perform light duty and to avoid long standing. On 31.07.2014, the Review Medical Board examined the petitioner

and categorized him as Shape-A2 (permanent), stating that he is fit for civil employment. At that stage, the petitioner was transferred from Avadi, Chennai to 170 Battalion stationed Bijapur, Chhattishgarh State. Hence, he has come forward with this Writ Petition for the aforementioned relief.

3.The learned counsel appearing for the petitioner contended that the Standing Order No.4 of 2011 dated 27th July, 2011, stipulates about the rehabilitation of Force Personnel. Class-A provides that those who are disabled due to injuries sustained in action against terrorist/anti-social elements/insurgents/naxalities/while maintaining law & order/internal security/undergoing training or any other bonafide duty. Further, the Board should examine a person with regard to his physical/mental capability, aptitude, job requirements etc., and after assessing the capability and health condition of the person, recommended to be whether he/she can be rehabilitated within the Force by assigning the jobs mentioned in para-7 & 8 of the Standing Order. Paragraph No.7 of the Standing Order stipulated for the job, based on the recommendation of the Board to be provided to the employees for rehabilitation.

4. On a perusal of the entire Standing Orders, this Court is of the opinion that the Standing Order relating to rehabilitation of Force personnel is nowhere connected with the transfer of a personnel from one place to another place. Rehabilitation is one aspect and the transfer of a personnel is another aspect. Rehabilitation of the employee is very much required especially in Uniformed Services, when they suffer certain injuries during the course of performing their duties. But, transfer can never be the right and the place and post can never be claimed as a right.

5. Under the Standing Orders, rehabilitation can be claimed by the personnel, when they sustained injuries during the course of performing their duties. But, place and post can never be claimed as a matter of legal right. On rehabilitation or during the course of rehabilitation, if the Board finds that a particular person is eligible to perform certain kind of light duty, then it is for the authorities to allot such light duties and post him in the appropriate place. In such circumstances, no personnel in the Uniformed Service can claim that either he should be posted in Chennai or any other place of his choice. In other words, choice of post or place are certainly not available to the public servants.

6.Thus, the arguments advanced by the learned counsel for the writ petitioner that as per the Standing Orders issued on rehabilitation of Force Personnel, the writ petitioner ought to have been accommodated only at Avadi, Chennai, deserves to be rejected. However, it is for the authorities to find out the nature of concession to be shown to a particular employee and accordingly, allot him any place or post. The Constitutional Courts cannot interfere with the day-today administration so as to cause any chaos in the running of the administration in a peaceful manner. Further, Standing Order No.4/2011 dated 27th July, 2011, never prevents the authorities from transferring and posting a personnel from one place to another place. Contrarily, it provides a scheme for rehabilitation of Force personnel, which is to be undertaken by the competent authorities and this Court has no contrary opinion in this regard. All the personnel who sustained certain injuries on account of performing their duties has to be shown indulgence in providing rehabilitation in respect of the job responsibilities, but, not in respect of transfer and posting.

7.This being the view of this Court, all these Standing Orders are the subject matters to be considered only by the competent authorities and this Court may not be in a position to go into those factual aspects and decide whether the writ petitioner should be

allowed to continue only in Avadi, Chennai or not. Furthermore, the writ petitioner is continuing in Avadi, Chennai, for about twelve years and further continuance is certainly not desirable, since he is working in a disciplined Uniformed Force, i.e. CRPF.

8. Transfer of an employee is a prerogative power vested with the competent authority. It is for the competent authority to decide how and where to post the personnel for effective administration. The writ petitioner being an employee of an uniformed service has to abide by the administrative orders more specifically of transfers.

9. In respect of medical treatments, this Court is easily able to presume that adequate medical facilities will be certainly available in all the Head Quarters of a State or in nearby places. Intervention in administrative transfers will not only cause inconvenience to the administration, but also amounts to preventing opportunity of other employees to come over to their native places. Administrative transfer policies are implemented in the interest of the department, more so, in the uniformed services, in order to maintain discipline and good conduct. Periodical transfers of uniformed personnel are highly essential. Keeping an uniformed personnel in one place may create issues relating to others' right to come over to their native places or

any native States. CRPF being a disciplined force, has to maintain such a disciplined conduct throughout in the interest of our great nation. This apart, all the Standing Orders and the Guidelines in this regard are instructions to be followed and no Standing Order prohibits the competent authority from issuing administrative transfer and posting.

10. This Court is very much conscious that administrative transfers are allowed to be implemented in the interest of administration. It is not for the Courts to interfere or exercise the power of judicial review in the matter of transfers. Only on exceptional circumstances i.e. to say in the event of violation of any statutory rules, the power of judicial review can be exercised and not otherwise. Violation of certain guidelines /instructions given in the form of circular or orders, will not confer any legal right on the employees. In other words, the circulars and orders of the Government with regard to the guidelines issued for implementing transfers will not confer any right on the employees. Certain concessions are provided in order to make the employees more accommodative for effective functioning of the administration. Thus, it is for the competent authorities to consider all these aspects in respect of the personal grievances of the employees, while effecting

transfers. Such being the legal principles on transfers, this Court is of the undoubted opinion that the administrative transfers cannot be challenged by way of writ petition and this Court has to be conscious, while exercising the judicial review against the orders of administrative transfers.

11.A Government servant holding a transferable post, has no vested right to remain posted at one place or the other and he is liable to be transferred from one place to the other. Transfer orders issued by the competent authority do not violate any of his legal right. Even if a transfer order is passed in violation of executive instructions or orders, the Courts ordinarily should not interfere with the order, instead the affected party should approach the higher authorities of the department. If Courts continue to interfere with day-to-day transfer orders issued by the Government and its subordinate authorities, there will be complete chaos in the administration, which would not be conducive to public interest. The Courts need not overlook these aspects while interfering with the orders of transfers.

12.In the case on hand, by virtue of an interim order granted by this Court, the writ petitioner is continuously working in Avadi,

Chennai. In fact, it is not preferable to allow the writ petitioner to continue in Avadi, Chennai, furthermore. Thus, the writ petition and the grounds raised therein deserve no merit consideration.

13. Accordingly, the writ petition stands dismissed. However, there is no order as to costs. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petition is closed.

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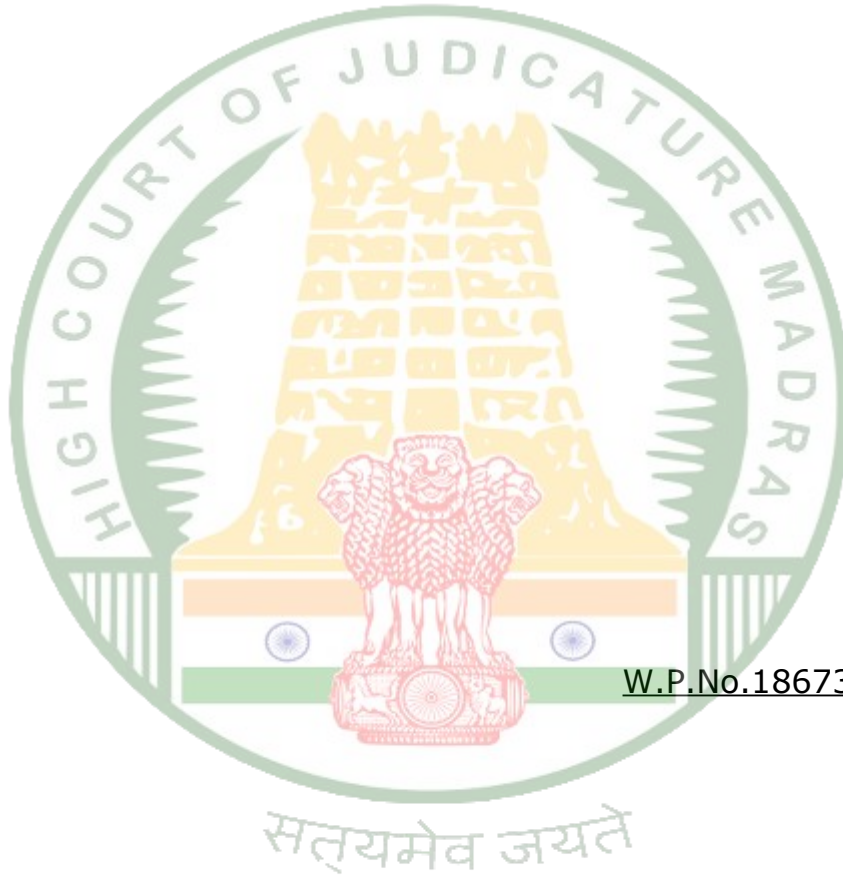
To

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