

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED 23.02.2017

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE P.N.PRAKASH

Writ Petition No.16449 of 2003

1.P.Durairaj
2.R.Kalaiselvan
3.S.Balasubramanian
4.S.Sankaran
5.V.Lalithambihai
6.G.Velladurai
7.A.Joseph
8.M.I.Alexus
9.S.Chidambaranathan
10.V.Paramasivan
11.T.Rajasekaran
12.R.Chellapandian
13.S.Narayanan
14.C.Martin efrham
15.R.Pauldurai
16.A.Pious
17.V.Gerald William Roche
18.K.Poorna Selvi Jameela

.. Petitioners

Versus

1.State of Tamil Nadu,
rep. by its Secretary to Government,
School Education Department,
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.

2.Director of School Education,
Chennai-6.

3.District Educational Officer,
Cheranmahadevi at Tirunelveli,
Tirunelveli District.
4.Correspondent,
S.S.V.Higher Secondary School,
Mathapattanam, Alangulam Taluk,
Tirunelveli District.

5.The Correspondent/Secretary,
Sokkalai Higher Secondary School,
Mukkudal, Ambasamudram Taluk,
Tirunelveli District.

6.The Correspondent/Secretary,
Tilak Vidhayalaya Higher Secondary School,
Kallidaikurichi, Ambasamudram Taluk,
Tirunelveli District.

7.The Correspondent,
St. Mary's Higher Secondary School,
Vikramasinghapuram, Ambasamudram Taluk,
Tirunelveli District.

8.The Correspondent/Secretary,
Chatram Bharathi Higher Secondary School,
Kadayam, Ambasamudram Taluk,
Tirunelveli District.

9.The Correspondent,
Senai Thalaiyar High School,
Vikramasinghapuram,
Ambasamudram Taluk,
Tirunelveli District.

10.The Correspondent,
Ulagu Ratchagar Higher Secondary School,
Thisayanvilai, Tirunelveli District.

11.St.Annes Higher Secondary School,
rep. by its Correspondent,
Koodankulam, Tirunelveli District.

12.Correspondent,
K.A.M.P.Meerania High School,
Kalakad, Tirunelveli District.

13.Correspondent and Secretary,
Ramasesayyar Higher Secondary School,
Pathamadai, Ambasamudram Taluk,
Tirunelveli District.

... Respondents

Prayer: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a writ of certiorari calling for the records pertaining to the order passed by the respondent-1 in so far as para 3 (vii) in G.O. Ms. No.155, School Education Department, dated 03.10.2002 in so far as it stops salary which hitherto given to the petitioners and the consequential order passed by

the second respondent in his Proceedings Na.Ka.No.87909/D3(4)/02, dated 26.05.2003 in so far as the petitioners are concerned and quash the same.

For Petitioners : Mr.C.Vediappan for M/s.S. Mani
For Respondents : Mr.V.Jayaprakash Narayanan,
Special Government Pleader for
R1 to R3

O R D E R

In this writ petition, the petitioners have challenged the validity of G.O. Ms. No.155, School Education (D2) Department, dated 03.10.2002 and have sought for certain consequential reliefs.

2. When this petition was taken up for hearing, Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan, learned Special Government Pleader brought to the notice of this Court the Division Bench judgment of this Court in the State of Tamil Nadu and others vs. Pallivasal Primary School represented by its Correspondent, Mudukulathur reported in 2004-2-Law Weekly 591 wherein it has been held as follows:

6. The Government Order No: 155 directs recovery of salary paid to the appellants/ petitioners on the ground that prior to their completing the training, they could not have held the posts that were held by them. There is no dispute about the fact that these persons had actually worked. Salary paid to persons who had actually rendered service cannot be regarded as amount paid as gratis. Moreover the Division Bench had noticed the fact that these persons had been working and had indicated that it would be equitable to allow them to remain in employment. It was left to the Government to device a scheme by which these persons could acquire qualifications which were essential for holding the post to which they had been appointed at a time when they did not possess the qualification. The salary that had been paid to them during that period when they were actually teaching, even though without the requisite qualifications, in our view, is not an amount which they should be called upon to repay. It has been noticed by the Division Bench which upheld the G.O. Ms.No: 559 that most of these teachers came from a poor background, that it was after a great deal of effort before that they could equip themselves to a limited extent and thereafter had been working in the schools for meager salaries. Directing such persons to repay huge amounts, huge amounts because the entire

salary paid over a period of nearly nine years would amount to inasmuch as over five lakhs of rupees per person, would cause untold hardship to such teachers. We, therefore, set aside that part of the Government Order namely sub-para (vii) of Para 3 which directs recovery from these teachers.

7. So far as the approvals / confirmation is concerned, Government was not under any duty to approve or confirm the appointment of appellants / petitioners who did not possess the qualifications prescribed when, they were improperly appointed to the posts. Their position cannot be equated to that of those who possess the qualification and had been duly appointed. Their remaining in their post was only by reason of a sympathetic view taken by the Division Bench which had upheld the Government Order which had directed that persons with B.Ed. Qualification are not to be appointed in Secondary Grade vacancies.

8. Their right to be regarded as persons eligible for confirmation/ approval can be said to arise only after they acquired, after their training, a minimum prescribed qualification. The Government here has shown great concession to them by allowing them to retain their position even without obtaining the requisite diploma or certificate in child psychology by giving to them training in child psychology. We see nothing wrong in the Government directing that their approval / confirmation can only be on and after the date they complete the training. Their past service however shall count for pension.

11. We, therefore, allow the writ appeals and writ petitions to the limited extent of directing that no recovery be made from the persons to whom the Government had already released grants and paid salaries. The writ appeals / writ petitions are disposed of accordingly. Connected miscellaneous petitions are closed."

3. In the result, the writ petition is allowed to the limited extent of directing that no recovery be made from the petitioners to whom the Government had already released grants and paid salaries. No costs. Consequently, connected M.Ps are closed.

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar

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Sub Assistant Registrar

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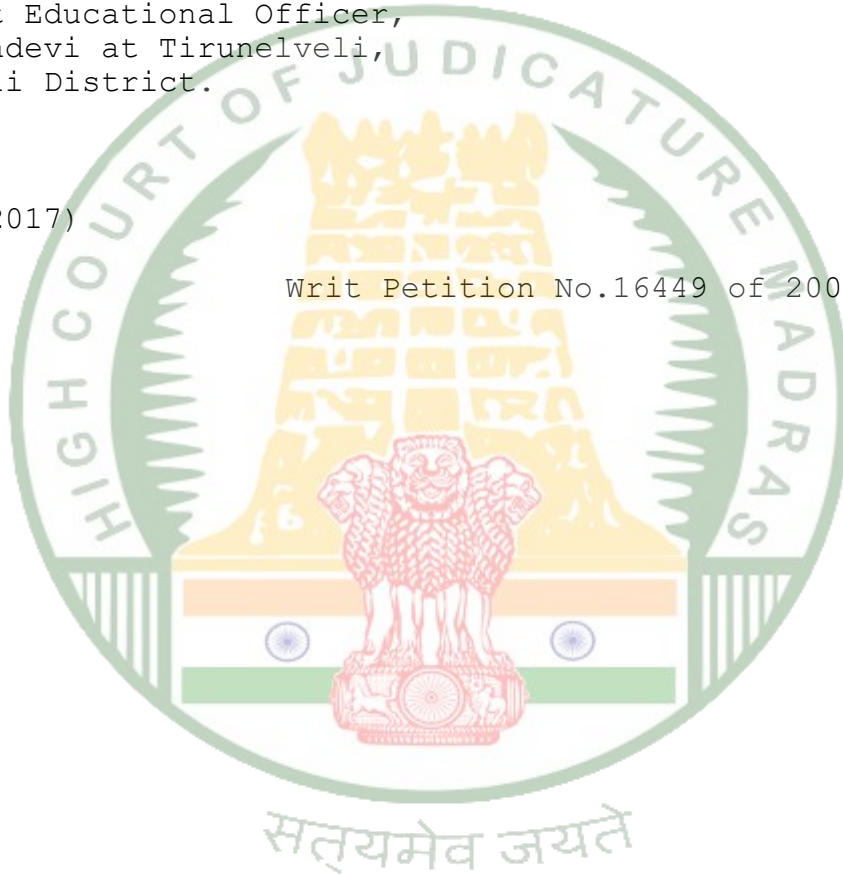
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pvs (CO)
md(17/03/2017)

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