



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 08.05.2017

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE R.SURESH KUMAR

W.P(MD)No.19214 of 2014

K.Muthumari

... Petitioner

Vs.

1.The Director of Elementary School Education,
Chennai - 600 006.

2.The District Elementary Educational Officer,
Ramanathapuram District @ Ramanathapuram.

3.The Assistant Elementary Educational Officer,
Kamuthi Union, Kamuthi,
Ramanathapuram District.

... Respondents

Prayer:- Writ Petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Mandamus, directing the respondents to grant one set of third incentive increment to the petitioner for acquiring M.Ed by calculating the arrears from the date of her qualification of M.Ed., (i.e.) May 1999 within the time stipulated by this Court.

For Petitioner : Mr.M.Sathish Babu

For Respondents : Mr.S.Kumar,

Additional Government Pleader.

ORDER

The petitioner has come out with the present Writ Petition with a prayer of Writ of Mandamus seeking direction to the respondents to grant one set of third incentive increment to the petitioner for acquiring M.Ed qualification by calculating the arrears from the date of her qualification of M.Ed degree ie., May 1999 within a time frame to be stipulated by this Court.

2.The petitioner was appointed as Secondary Grade Teacher on 28.02.1990 at a Pachayat Union Primary School, Ramanathapuram District. While she was in service, the petitioner acquired B.Litt (Tamil) degree in the year 1995 and has successfully completed B.Ed degree in the year 1996. Subsequently, the petitioner also acquired the qualification of M.A (Tamil) in the year 1998 and also she acquired the qualification of M.Ed degree in the year 1999. All these higher qualifications were acquired by the petitioner only after getting necessary permission from the department concerned.

3.Henceforth, the petitioner was promoted as Headmistress in 1999 and was posted at Panchayat Union Primary School at



Ma.Pudhukkulam, Ramanathapuram District. Thereafter, the petitioner was promoted as B.T.Assistant (Tamil) on 02.01.2009 and subsequently promoted as Middle School Headmistress on 04.06.2010, and the petitioner has been working continuously as such.

4.For acquiring the aforesaid higher qualification of B.Ed as well as M.A (Tamil), the petitioner has already obtained two set of advance incentive increment in the year 1996 as well as in the year 1998. For acquiring the further qualification, namely, for M.Ed degree in the year 1999, the petitioner had approached the respondents by way of request/representation dated 10.11.2014 for grant of third incentive increment, the said request has not been considered. Therefore the petitioner has approached this Court with the aforesaid prayer through the present Writ Petition.

5.Mr.N.Sathish Babu, the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner would submit that the petitioner though already obtained two set of advance increment for acquiring B.Ed as well as M.A degrees, she would be further entitled to claim third set of advance increment for her acquiring the qualification of M.Ed., degree. The learned counsel would further submit that though G.O.Ms.No.1170, Education Department dated 20.12.1993 has fixed a cut of date that only those who possess the higher qualification such as M.Phil/Ph.D/ P.G Diploma in teaching English as on 01.03.1993 alone would be entitled to get the benefit of getting advance incentive increment, the said prescription of cut of date has subsequently been deleted by G.O.Ms.No.194, School Education Department dated 10.10.2006. In this regard, the learned counsel for the petitioner would rely upon paragraph Nos.2, 3, 4 & 5 of G.O.Ms.No.194, School Education Department dated 10.10.2006, which reads thus:-

"2.The Post Graduate Teachers working higher Secondary Schools approached the High Court, Chennai for not granting incentive increment to them for their Higher qualification they obtained after 01.03.1993. As per the Judgment of the High Court, Chennai on 12.02.1998 against the Writ Petition No.17884/1998 and some other such cases, on incentive increment (2 increments) may be given for M.Phil qualification to the Post Graduate Teachers. The Director of School Education made an appeal against this Judgment in addition to this Officers working under the Director of School Education and the correspondents of aided Schools made an appeal against their Judgment dated 12.02.1998. The High Court at Chennai rejected all the appeal petitions and gave the Judgment on 20.06.2006 reiterating the Judgment given already by the High Court and ordered them to execute the same us their eight weeks.

3.All the petitions against the sanctioning of incentive increment to the Post Graduate Teachers for their higher Post Graduate Teachers for their higher

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qualifications such as M.Phil/Ph.D/PGDTE have been rejected of the stipulated time 01.03.1993 in G.O.Ms.No.1170 of the Education Science and Technology Department dated 20.12.1993 in omitted many kinds of judicial cases will come to an end. Hence the Director of School Education recommended that in order to implement the verdict of the High Court, Chennai dated 20.06.2006 the date 01.03.1993, can be omitted in the page 3 of the G.O.Ms.No.1170 of the Education Science and Technology Department dated 20.12.1993 amendment.

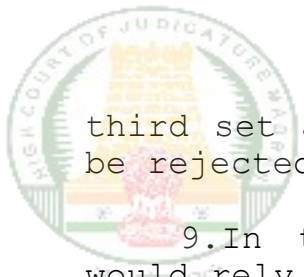
4.In G.O.Ms.1170 of the Education Science and Technology Department dated 20.12.1993 page 3(11) has been deleted.

5.This order has been issued on the concurrence of the Finance Department G.O.Ms.No.611920/Education/2006 dated 10.10.2006."

6.In view of the aforesaid Government Orders and the qualification of P.G. degree namely M.Ed., acquired by the petitioner, the learned counsel for the petitioner would submit that the petitioner would be entitled to get third set of advance incentive increment and since the same has not been granted or her representation in that regard dated 10.11.2014 is also not considered by the respondents, the petitioner has approached this Court and therefore the learned counsel would submit that the Mandamus as prayed for in this Writ Petition may be granted.

7.Per contra, Mr.S.Kumar, the learned Additional Government Pleader appearing for the respondents would submit that the two Government Orders referred to by the petitioner's side, namely, G.O.Ms.No.1170, Education Department dated 20.12.1993 as well as G.O.Ms.No.194, School Education Department dated 10.10.2006, are applicable only to P.G. Teachers or P.G. Assistants. In so far as the petitioner is concerned, she is only a Secondary Grade Teacher and has subsequently been promoted as Headmistress of a Primary School and therefore the two Government Orders referred to above would no way applicable to the case of the petitioner and therefore on the strength of the said Government Orders, the petitioner cannot seek any benefit.

8.The learned Additional Government Pleader would also submit that, that apart the petitioner was already granted two set of advance incentive increment for acquiring higher qualification, namely, B.Ed., and M.A, and she is enjoying the same. A teacher in the entire service period would only entitle for two set of advance incentive increment and beyond that even though further higher qualification is acquired by a teacher, he would not be entitled to get any further advance increment i.e., third set of advance increment and therefore, since the petitioner has already got two set of advance increment, she would not be entitled to claim the



third set and therefore her claim made in this regard is liable to be rejected.

9. In this regard, the learned Additional Government Pleader would rely upon paragraph No.4 of the counter affidavit filed by the third respondent in W.P(MD)No.17434 of 2014 which reads thus:-

"4.It is submitted that the Government have instructed in their letter No.590, Education Department dated 20.03.1976 that in the case of teachers who got already four advance increments (two incentive increments) for acquiring higher qualifications, the question of sanctioning further advance increments to them either in the old scale of pay or in the revised scale of pay does not arise if any made, such amounts may be recovered. Again in letter No.14705/E2/97-19 dated 31.05.2000, the Government have ordered that all the categories of teachers will be given only two incentive increments in their entire service period and there is no need to revise the stand of the Government further more. It is also submitted that the Government in their orders, G.O.Ms.No.1023 Education, Science and Technology Department dated 09.12.1993 have specifically informed that in future, the maximum number of advance increments admissible to a teacher for obtaining higher qualifications under the orders shall be four only (two incentive increments)."

10. This Court has considered the rival submissions made by the learned respective counsel appearing for the parties. The prime objection, according to the learned Additional Government Pleader is that, the petitioner since already obtained two set of advance incentive increment for acquiring higher qualification, she would not be entitled for further advance incentive increment. Secondly, the two Government Orders referred from the side of the petitioner are only related to P.G. Teachers or P.G. Assistants and since the petitioner is only a Secondary Grade Teacher or Headmistress of a Primary School, those Government Orders would not be made applicable to the case of the petitioner.

11. In so far as the two objections raised on behalf of the respondents are concerned, the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner would rely upon two decisions of this Court one is by the learned Single Judge made in **W.P. (MD)No.11802 of 2013 etc. batch dated 24.07.2013** in the matter of **K.Nagasubramanian Vs. The Secretary to Government, School Education Department and others**. The other decision relied by the learned counsel for the petitioner is the Division Bench Judgment of this Court made in **W.A. (MD)No.867 of 2014 dated 18.09.2014** in the matter of **The Director of School Education, Chennai and another Vs. N.Balasoundari and another**.

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12. The issue raised in this Writ Petition, in the opinion of



this Court is covered by the said decisions relied on by the petitioner's side, especially the decision of the Division Bench of this Court referred to above.

13. In fact, the similar objection, as has been raised in this Writ Petition by the respondents' side, has been raised by the respondents therein in the Writ Appeal also, which has been extracted by the Division Bench of this Court, at paragraph 6 of the order dated 18.09.2014 in W.A.(MD)No.867 of 2014 which reads thus:-

"6. According to the District Educational Officer, Paramakudi, second appellant herein, as per the G.O.Ms.No.42, Education Department, dated 10.01.1969, the Writ Petitioner was awarded with two incentive increments each for B.Ed., and M.A. As per G.O.Ms.No.1024, Education, Science and Technology Department, dated 09.12.1993, the maximum number of advance increments, which a Teacher can get under the scheme, is four, in his/her entire service. Therefore, the second appellant has submitted that four advance increments (two incentive increments) were already given to the writ petitioner, and therefore, she is not eligible for the third incentive increment."

14. After considering the various issues and Government Orders in this regard by a very elaborate Judgment that the Division Bench of this Court has ultimately concluded that a teacher would be entitled to get any number of advance incentive increment for acquiring higher qualification and such claim can be made even after the retirement of the teacher concerned. The relevant portion of the order of the Division Bench of this Court in paragraph Nos.35 to 37 is extracted hereunder:-

"35. Reverting back to the case on hand, it could be seen that the respondent/writ petitioner, in the post of Physical Education Teacher completed her B.A in 1980 and B.Ed in 1982. Considering her educational qualification, she has been granted two advance increments for B.Ed., on 29.12.1982. She has acquired M.A in the year 1985. She was posted as B.T Assistant in 1987. She has been granted two advance increments for acquiring M.A qualification in the post of B.T Assistant with effect from 20.07.1987. She has completed M.Ed., in the month of December 1987 much before 09.12.1993. Decisions in the Director of School Education Vs. S.Shanmugam (W.A.No.604 of 2005, decided on 03.04.2008) and P.B.Bheeman Vs. The Registrar (W.P.No.41451 of 2005, decided on 01.08.2008) can be made applicable to the present case."

36. Though both the cases relate to Tamil Pandits, the principle of law to be applied for grant of incentives for having higher qualifications in service, at the time



of entry into service or subsequently acquired, applies to a B.T teacher also. At this juncture, we wish to state that from the Government Orders referred to above, what is required to be considered is the educational qualifications possessed or acquired by a teacher. Now, when this Court has recognised the grant of advance incentive increment to a Tamil Pandit I, for possessing B.T qualification and when the Government have recognised the right of Tamil Pandit II, to seek for advance increments for acquiring B.T qualification, in the post of Tamil Pandit II, and further recognised the rights of both, to claim advance increments, after B.T., and M.A., separately and thereafter, for M.Ed., qualification, in terms of G.O.Ms.No.42, we are unable to understand as to how the Government could raise objections. The objections are untenable.

36.Though it is contended that during the period of service or reemployment, the writ petitioner has not made any claim for third incentive for M.Ed qualification, that would not curtail her right to claim after retirement. Entitlement to claim continues even after retirement.

37.For the reasons stated supra, we do not find any merit in the appeal. Accordingly, the Writ Appeal is dismissed. Appellants are directed to sanction and pay the arrears of incentive increment, to the Writ Petitioner for M.Ed degree qualification, within a period of eight weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this Judgment. No costs."

15.In view of the said pronouncement of a Division Bench of this Court, the objection raised by the respondents that the petitioner since has already acquired higher qualification, for which she had already obtained two advance incentive increment, and therefore she would not be entitled to get further advance incentive increment, as the maximum incentive increment can be only two sets i.e., first and second increment, cannot be a acceptable argument, as the issue has been well settled by the said decision of the Division Bench of this Court.

16.In so far as the further argument of the learned Additional Government Pleader that the two Government Orders, namely G.O.Ms.No.1170, Education Department dated 20.12.1993 as well as G.O.Ms.No.194, School Education Department dated 10.10.2006 would not be made applicable to the case of the petitioner is concerned, even such objection in the opinion of this Court, may not be sustainable because in the two judgments relied on by the petitioner, on the one hand all these issues have been exhaustively discussed and decided. In a case of a Physical Education Teacher, the issue



of grant of advance incentive increment for acquiring higher qualification has also been considered and decided in favour of the Teacher concerned. Also, a Tamil Pandit, as well as B.T Teacher has been considered for grant of advance incentive increment for acquiring higher qualification. Therefore the said argument that the relevant Government Orders namely G.O.Ms.No.1170, Education Department dated 20.12.1993 as well as G.O.Ms.No.194, School Education Department dated 10.10.2006, would not be made applicable to the case of the petitioner is concerned, is also liable to be rejected as without the aid of the said Government Orders the petitioner can independently claim the third set of advance incentive increment for acquiring the higher qualification, namely, M.Ed., degree. The only aid that the petitioner can take it from G.O.Ms.No.194, School Education Department dated 10.10.2006 is that the hurdle created in G.O.Ms.No.1170, Education Department dated 20.12.1993 by putting a cut of date 01.03.1993 since has been removed or deleted by G.O.Ms.No.194, School Education Department dated 10.10.2006, at paragraph No.4. Therefore on that score it cannot be said that only on the strength of G.O.Ms.No.1170, Education Department dated 20.12.1993 as well as G.O.Ms.No.194, School Education Department dated 10.10.2006 alone the petitioner is claiming her advance incentive increment for acquiring the qualification of M.Ed., as a third set of incentive increment. Therefore all the contentions raised by the respondents' side, since has been covered by the said decisions of this Court, as has been referred to above, are liable to be rejected. Therefore, accordingly they are rejected.

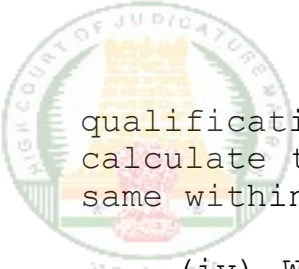
17.In the result, this Court is of the view that the petitioner's request for grant of third advance incentive increment for acquiring M.Ed., degree qualification can very well be considered by the respondents.

18.Resultantly, the following orders are passed in this Writ Petition:-

(i) The second respondent is directed to consider the request of the petitioner, dated 10.11.2014 seeking for third advance incentive increment for acquiring M.Ed., qualification from May 1999.

(ii) Since the representation of the petitioner is 10.11.2014, a copy of the same shall be forwarded by the petitioner to the second respondent along with the copy of the Writ Appeal Judgment in W.A(MD)No.867 of 2014 immediately within a period of one week from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

(iii) On receipt of the same, while making consideration of the representation of the petitioner, the second respondent shall take into account the Division Bench Judgment of this Court in W.A(MD) No.867 of 2014, dated 18.09.2014 and pass orders for grant of third advance incentive increment for the petitioner for the aforesaid



qualification of M.Ed., degree from May 1999 and accordingly calculate the pay and arrears payable to the petitioner and pay the same within eight weeks thereafter.

(iv) With these directions, this Writ Petition is disposed of.
No costs.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar (AD-II)

/True Copy/

Sub Assistant Registrar

To

1. The Director of Elementary School Education,
Chennai - 600 006.
2. The District Elementary Educational Officer,
Ramanathapuram District @ Ramanathapuram.
3. The Assistant Elementary Educational Officer,
Kamuthi Union, Kamuthi,
Ramanathapuram District.

+1cc to THE SPECIAL GOVERNMENT PLEADER in SR. No. 55984
+1cc to Mr.N.SATHISH BABU Advocate in SR. No. 55973

TA/MYR/PS/SSL
JS/JC/SAR.3/16.11.2017/8P-6C

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