



WEB COPY

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 14.07.2017

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE R.MAHADEVAN

W.P. (MD) No.13012 of 2017

and

W.M.P. (MD) Nos.10080 to 10082 of 2017

A.Jerome Kumar

... Petitioner

-vs-

1. The Government of Tamil Nadu
Rep. by its Additional Chief Secretary,
Department of School Education,
Fort St.George, Chennai-9.
2. The Director of Elementary Education,
DPI Campus, College Road,
Chennai-600 006.
3. District Elementary Educational Officer,
The Office of the District Educational Officer,
Palani Road,
Dindigul - 624 001.
4. The Assistant Elementary Educational Officer,
The Office of the AEEO,
Sanarpatty-624 306,
Dindigul District.
5. The Correspondent
St.James R.C. Primary School,
Mangamanoothu-624 306,
Dindigul District.

... Respondents

Prayer: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying to issue a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus calling for the records pertaining to the impugned G.O.Ms.No.181 School Education (C2) Department, dated 15.11.2011 on the file of the first respondent and the consequential proceedings dated 11.06.2017 in O.Mu.No.1389/AA5/2017, on the file of the third respondent and quash the same in respect of the petitioner based on the Division Bench orders dated 24.08.2016 and made in W.A.No.213 of 2016 and made in W.A.(MD) No.1019 of 2013 dated 24.11.2016, directing the respondents to approve the appointment of the petitioner Mr.A.Jereome Kumar, as Secondary Grade Assistant in St.James R.C. Primary School, Mangamanoothu-624 306, Dindigul District, with effect from 19.10.2016 with all service benefits.

For Petitioner : Mr.V.John Kennedy

For R1 to R4 : Mr.D.Muruganandham

Additional Government Pleader

**ORDER**

This writ petition has been filed, seeking to quash the impugned order dated 15.11.2011 passed by the 1st respondent in G.O.Ms.No.181, School Education (C2) Department and the consequential proceedings of the third respondent dated 11.06.2017 in O.Mu.No.1389/AA5/2017, by which, the proposal sent by the 5th respondent for approval of appointment of the petitioner was rejected, on the ground that the petitioner has not passed in TET exam and also the relevant Government Order has not been enclosed. The petitioner also sought a direction to the respondents to approve the appointment of the petitioner as Secondary Grade Assistant with effect from 19.10.2016 with all service benefits.

2. Heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and the learned Additional Government Pleader, appearing for the respondents 1 to 4.

3. The 5th respondent school (hereinafter referred to as "the school") is administered by the "R.C. Diocese of Dindigul" and is registered as a Society, bearing Registration S.No.1149 of 2002 dated 18.12.2002, in the name and style of "Dindigul Catholic Diocesan Society". One post of Secondary Grade Assistant in the school fell vacant on account of resignation of one Mr.Suresh Durai. In that vacancy, the school appointed the petitioner as Secondary Grade Assistant and he joined duty on 19.10.2016.

4. The school submitted a proposal to the third respondent requesting to approve his appointment as Secondary Grade Assistant from 19.10.2016 and disburse grant-in-aid towards his salary. But the third respondent returned the proposal by his proceedings dated 11.06.2017, on the ground stated supra. Aggrieved by the same, the petitioner is before this Court with the relief stated supra.

5. The learned counsel for the petitioner has brought to the attention of this Court to the Judgment of the Division Bench of this Court in W.A.Nos.213 and 572 of 2016 etc. batch, dated 24.08.2016, wherein a direction was issued to the Government to release the salary of the Teachers and also to pay the arrears of salary within a period of two months.

6. Article 45 of the Constitution of India directed the States to endeavour to provide free and compulsory education to all children until they complete the age of 14 years and this should be done within a period of 10 years from the commencement of the Constitution. Article 45 was amended by the 86th Constitution Amendment Act, 2002 and it reads "the State shall endeavour to provide free and compulsory childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of 14 year". Under the very same enactment, the right to education became a fundamental right to the children



between the age group of 6 to 14. Thereafter, parliament enacted the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (hereinafter called "RTE Act") with the object of providing free education, which came into force from 01.04.2010.

6.1. With the view to improve the quality of education and to provide quality education to children, Section 23 of the RTE Act makes it mandatory for a person, who seeks appointment in the schools covered under RTE Act to possess minimum qualification as laid down by the Academic Authority. As per Section 23 (1) of RTE Act National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) was notified as the Academic Authority. The authority, while providing for guidelines to conduct Teacher Eligibility Test indicated that the teacher should have passed Teacher Eligibility Test (in short "TET") to be conducted by the appropriate Government in accordance with the guidelines in order to get appointment as Teacher.

6.2. Accepting this recommendation, the Government of Tamil Nadu issued G.O.Ms.No.181 School Education Department dated 15.11.2011. The Government also passed G.O.Ms.25 dated 06.02.2014, under which, the minimum marks to be obtained by various categories were prescribed was also quashed by the Hon'ble Division Bench. The constitutional validity of RTE Act was under challenge before the Supreme Court in the case of **Society for Unaided Private Schools of Rajasthan vs. Union of India, 2012 (6) SCC 1**. The Apex Court while upholding the constitutional validity held that the Act is applicable to all schools, except the unaided minority schools.

6.3. In the case of **Pramati Educational and Cultural Trust vs. Union of India, 2014 (4) MLJ 486**, the Hon'ble Supreme Court held that under Article 31 of the Constitution of India, all minorities, whether based on religion or language shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice and therefore, those institutions have a special constitutional right to establish and administer educational schools of their choice.

7. The Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court in the case of W.A.(MD) No.213 and 572 of 2016, based on the judgment in Pramati's case, held that G.O.181 dated 15.11.2011, which was issued prior to the directions of NCET, cannot be made applicable to minority institutions. The Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court in the said decision has only suggested that the minority institution may consider conducting a refresher course and also some interactive sessions in order to ensure the quality of teachers. Therefore, it is clear that the impugned order dated 11.06.2017 is liable to be set aside in view of the legal position enunciated in W.A.(MD) No.213 and 572 of 2016.



8. Accordingly, this writ petition is allowed and the impugned order dated 11.06.2017 is set aside. The third respondent is directed to approve the appointment of the petitioner as Secondary Grade Assistant with effect from 19.10.2016 and release the salary grant to him from the date of his appointment, viz., 19.10.2016 and to pay the arrears of salary within a period of two months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. No costs. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petitions are closed.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar(CS-II)

/True Copy/

Sub Assistant Registrar

To:

1. The Additional Chief Secretary,
Government of Tamil Nadu
Department of School Education,
Fort St.George, Chennai-9.
2. The Director of Elementary Education,
DPI Campus, College Road,
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4. The Assistant Elementary Educational Officer,
The Office of the AEEO,
Sanarpatty-624 306,
Dindigul District.

+1cc to Mr.V.John Kennedy, Advocate Sr.No.65399

RM/AR

VB/KP/SAR1/25.07.2017/4P/6C

W.P. (MD) No.13012 of 2017

14.07.2017