



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 15.11.2016

CORAM

THE HON'BLE Dr.JUSTICE S.VIMALAW.P (MD) No.21564 of 2016

The Correspondent
St.Paul's High School,
Ulagampatti - 624 709,
Dindigul District.

.. Petitioner

-vs-

- 1.The State of Tamil Nadu,
rep.by its Secretary,
Department of School Education,
Fort St.George,
Chennai - 600 009.
- 2.The Director of School Education,
College Road,
Chennai - 600 006.
- 3.The Chief Educational Officer,
Dindigul,
Dindigul District.
- 4.The District Educational Officer,
Dindigul, Dindigul District.

.. Respondents

Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying to issue a Certiorarified Mandamus calling for the records relating to the impugned proceedings issued by the 4th respondent District Educational officer in A.O.Mu.No.5213/A1/2016 dated 26.10.2016 and to quash the same and further direct the 4th respondent District Educational officer to approve forthwith the appointment of Fr.J.Antony Samy as BT Assistant Maths in the petitioners school w.e.f. the date of his appointment on 01.10.2014 with all attendant benefits including the arrears of salary and allowance.

For Petitioner : Mr.T.Cibi Chakraborty

For Respondents : Mr.V.R.Shanmuganathan
Special Government Pleader

**ORDER**

This writ petition has been filed to quash the impugned proceedings issued by the fourth respondent dated 26.10.2016 and consequently, direct the fourth respondent to approve the appointment of Fr.J.Antony Samy as BT Assistant, Maths in the petitioner's school with effect from the the date of his appointment on 01.10.2014 with all attendant benefits including the arrears of salary and allowance.

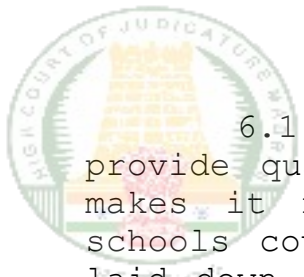
2.Heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and the learned Special Government Pleader who takes notice for the respondents. By consent the writ petition itself is taken up for final disposal at the admission stage.

3.The petitioner school is a minority educational institution. One post of BT Assistant (Maths) in the petitioner's school fell vacant on 01.06.2012 due to retirement of one V.Annalakshmi. In that vacancy, the petitioner school appointed one Fr.J.Antony Samy as BT Assistant (Maths).

4.The petitioner school submitted a proposal to the fourth respondent requesting to approve his appointment as BT Assistant (Maths) with effect from 01.10.2014 and disburse grant-in-aid towards his salary. But the fourth respondent, by the impugned order dated 26.10.2016, returned the proposal and directed the petitioner school to resubmit the proposal, by enclosing the TET pass certificate of the incumbent. Challenging the same, the present Writ Petition has been filed.

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 endure 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 early 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 passed 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, the impugned order dated 26.10.2016 passed by the fourth respondent is set aside and the 4th respondent is directed to approve the appointment of Fr.J.Antony Samy as BT Assistant (Maths) in the petitioner school and disburse the grant-in-aid towards his salary allowance with effect from the date of his appointment, viz., 01.10.2014 and to pay the arrears of salary within a period of two months from the date of receipt of a copy of



this order.

9. With the above observation and direction, this Writ Petition is disposed of. No costs. Consequently, WMP(MD)Nos.15423 & 15424 of 2016 are closed.

/True copy/

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar (RTI)

Sub Assistant Registrar

To

1. The Secretary,
State of Tamil Nadu,
Department of School Education,
Fort St. George,
Chennai - 600 009.
2. The Director of School Education,
College Road,
Chennai - 600 006.
3. The Chief Educational Officer,
Dindigul,
Dindigul District.
4. The District Educational Officer,
Dindigul, Dindigul District.

+1 cc to THE SPECIAL GOVERNMENT PLEADER, SR.69295

+1 cc to Mr.T.CIBI CHAKRABORTHY, Advocate, SR.69215

W.P (MD) No.21564 of 2016
15.11.2016

mj
SH/SK:20.12.2016:4P/7C