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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 08.07.2019

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE S.MANIKUMAR
and
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE SUBRAMONIUM PRASAD

W.P.No.23937 of 2017

Selvam Flaubert

.. Petitioner

Vs.

1. Union of India,
Represented by its Chief Secretary,
Government of Pondicherry,
Pondicherry.

2. The Principal Secretary to the Lt.Governor,
Government of Pondicherry,
Raj Nivas, Pondicherry.

3. The Secretary to Government,
Department of Arts and Culture,
Government of Pondicherry,
Pondicherry.

4. The Registrar,
Pondicherry University,
RV Nagar, Kalapet, Pondicherry.

5. The Member Secretary,
Bharathiar Palakalai Koodam,
Cuddalore Main Road,
Ariyankuppam, Pondicherry.

.. Respondents

Prayer: Writ Petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, issuance of a writ of mandamus, directing the respondent 1 to 3 to appoint the regular and qualified principal in Bharathiya Palkalai Koodam, Pondicherry, which remains to be vacant for the past 5 years, by following the University Norms as per the recommendations of the 4th respondent University.

For Petitioner : Mr.A.Tamilvanan
for Mr.B.Balavijayan



For Respondents : Mrs.Usha, (for R1 to R3)
Additional Govt. Pleader (Pondy)

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O R D E R

(Order of this Court was made by S.Manikumar, J.)

Petitioner has filed the instant writ petition for a writ of mandamus, directing the respondents 1 to 3 to appoint a regular and qualified Principal in Bharathiya Palkalai Koodam, Pondicherry, which remains vacant for the past 5 years, by following the University Norms as per the recommendations of the 4th respondent University.

2. On the last hearing, representation has been made that writ petitions have been filed, challenging an order passed by the Vice Chairman cum Secretary to the Government (Arts and Culture), Government of Puducherry, Puducherry, appointing one 'X' as Principal of Bharathiar Palkalaikoodam and that the said writ petitions are pending before the writ Court.

3. After hearing the learned counsel for the parties, it was orally observed that steps can be taken to have a joint hearing of instant WP No.23937 and the other writ petitions viz., WP.Nos.5801 of 2018, 24348 of 2013 and 6486 of 2015.

4. On this day, when the matter came up for further hearing, Mr.A.Tamilvanan, learned counsel for the writ petitioner in WP No.23937 of 2017, submitted that in WP.Nos.5801 of 2018, 24348 of 2013 and 6486 of 2015 dated 24.09.2018, a learned Single Judge of this Court has directed to take up the process of selection to the post of Principal. For brevity the order made in the abovesaid writ petitions, is reproduced.

"The Secretary to Government (Art and Culture) and also the Member Secretary (1st and 2nd respondents) are present and have filed an affidavit in W.P.No.5801 of 2018 making unconditional apology for having not complied of this court order dated 26.07.2018.

2. During the course of hearing, it is submitted by the first and second respondents that since no one is qualified to hold the post of Principal from among the teaching staff presently posted in the University, they could not comply with the direction of this Court and so they are inviting applications from outside and also conducting selection process, which at least will take nearly about three months. Hence the time period be extended and the first and second respondents be purged of the proceedings of this court which



contemplates to initiate action against them for non compliance of this court order, more particularly in view of the fact that non compliance was not a deliberate act.

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3. The learned counsel for the writ petitioner in the aforesaid writs, submits that the same is designed only to allow the present incumbent, who is not qualified, to hold the post for the remaining period and frustrate the order of this Court.

4. The learned counsel for the Principal in charge, that is respondent No.5, also submits that the same is without any basis inasmuch as he is qualified to hold the post.

5. After hearing the learned counsel for the parties and regard being had to the facts and situations, since the dispute revolves round the present incumbent is in charge without posting a regular Principal, which post both the writ petitioner and the present incumbent claim to be qualified to hold the post and also the submission of the first and second respondents, this Court is of the view that the submissions advanced by the first and second respondents for non compliance of the court order within the time stipulated, cannot be said to be of bonafide reasons inasmuch as they had not come to the court earlier seeking extension. But considering the submissions advanced that they are going to post a qualified person by initiating a process within three months, this court allow them to continue with the process and comply the same within three months hence. However, the present Principal according to them, also being not qualified and in charge, an administrator be appointed by the Governing Body in consultation of the first respondent to man the administration of the institution till then, immediately. But the same is without prejudice to the claim of the writ petitioner, so also the present incumbent to apply for the post of Principal, during the course of selection, if they so desired inasmuch as it is their case that they are also qualified to hold the post, notwithstanding the submission of the first and second respondents. On their such application, if they are found to be eligible, as per the norms prescribed in this regard, they shall also be taken into the zone of consideration. However, it should not be treated as a mandate of this Court indicating the fact that they are also qualified inasmuch as this Court has not examined



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the rival contention with regard to their qualifications to hold the post of Principal, on merit. Consideration of their application as such for selection all depends on their possessing the required qualification.

6. The matter be posted in the first week of January 2019."

5. Ms.Usha, learned Additional Government Pleader (Puducherry) submitted that being aggrieved against the orders in WP.Nos.5801 of 2018, 24348 of 2013 and 6486 of 2015 dated 24.09.2018, stated supra, Dr.P.V.Prabhakaran, Assistant Professor, Fine Arts Department, Bharathiar Palkalaikoodam, Puducherry, has filed an appeal in WA No.2225 of 2018 and that a Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court has granted interim stay of the order made in WP.Nos.5801 of 2018, 24348 of 2013 and 6486 of 2015 dated 24.09.2018.

6. Matter is now subjudice before a Hon'ble Division Bench, dealing with service matters. It is a trite law that public interest litigations are not maintainable in service matters and reference can be made to the following decisions of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(i) Way back in 1998, in Dr.Duryodhan Sahu and others vs. Jitendra Kumar Mishra and others, reported in 1998 (7) SCC 273, the Hon'ble Supreme Court dealt with an issue, as to whether a Public Interest Writ Petition, at the instance of a stranger, could be entertained, by the Administrative Tribunal. After considering the decisions in Jasbhai Motibhai Desai vs. Roshan Kumar Haji Bashir Ahmed and others (1976) 1.S.C.C. 671, the law declared in Chandra Kumar vs. Union of India (1997) 3 SCC 261, and the provisions of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985, the Hon'ble Supreme Court held as follows:-

"18..... Section 3 (b) defines the word 'application' as an application made under Section 19. The latter Section refers to 'person aggrieved'. In order to bring a matter before the Tribunal, an application has to be made and the same can be made only by a person aggrieved by any order pertaining to any matter within the jurisdiction of the Tribunal. We have already seen that the word 'order' has been defined in the explanation to sub-s. (1) of Section 19 so that all matters referred to in Section 3 (q) as service matters could be brought before the Tribunal. It in that context, Sections 14 and 15 are read, there is no doubt that a total stranger to the concerned service cannot make an application before the Tribunal. If public interest litigations at the instance of strangers are allowed to be entertained by



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the Tribunal the very object of speedy disposal of service matters would get defeated.

19. Our attention has been drawn to a judgement of the Orissa Administrative Tribunal in Smt. Amitarani Khuntia Versus State of Orissa 1996. (1) OLR (CSR)-2. The Tribunal after considering the provisions of the Act held that a private citizen or a stranger having no existing right to any post and not intrinsically concerned with any service matter is not entitled to approach the Tribunal. The following passage in the judgement is relevant:

"....A reading of the aforesaid provisions would mean that an application for redressal of grievances could be filed only by a 'person aggrieved' within the meaning of the Act.

Tribunals are constituted under Article 323 A of the Constitution of India. The above Article empowers the Parliament to enact law providing for adjudication or trial by Administrative Tribunals of disputes and complaints with respect to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of any State or any local or other authority within the territory of India or under the control of the Government and such law shall specify the jurisdiction, powers and authority which may be exercised by each of the said Tribunals. Thus, it follows that Administrative Tribunals are constituted for adjudication or trial of the disputes and complaints with respect to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts. Its jurisdiction and powers have been well-defined in the Act. It does not enjoy any plenary power."

We agree with the above reasoning.

21. In the result, we answer the first question in the negative and hold that the Administrative Tribunal constituted under the Act cannot entertain a public interest litigation at the instance of a total stranger."

(ii) In Ashok Kumar Pandey vs. State of W.B., reported in (2004) 3 SCC 349, the Apex Court at paragraphs 5 to 16, held as follows:-

"5. It is necessary to take note of the meaning of the expression "public interest litigation". In Stroud's Judicial Dictionary, Vol. 4 (4th Edn.), "public interest" is defined thus:



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"Public interest.—(1) A matter of public or general interest 'does not mean that which is interesting as gratifying curiosity or a love of information or amusement; but that in which a class of the community have a pecuniary interest, or some interest by which their legal rights or liabilities are affected'."

6. In Black's Law Dictionary (6th Edn.), "public interest" is defined as follows:

"Public interest.—Something in which the public, the community at large, has some pecuniary interest, or some interest by which their legal rights or liabilities are affected. It does not mean anything so narrow as mere curiosity, or as the interests of the particular localities, which may be affected by the matters in question. Interest shared by citizens generally in affairs of local, State or national Government."

7. In Janata Dal case (1992 (4) SCC 305 = 1993 SCC (Cri) 36) this Court considered the scope of public interest litigation. In para 53 of the said judgment, after considering what is public interest, this Court has laid down as follows: (SCC p. 331, para 53)

"The expression 'litigation' means a legal action including all proceedings therein initiated in a court of law with the purpose of enforcing a right or seeking a remedy. Therefore, lexically the expression 'PIL' means a legal action initiated in a court of law for the enforcement of public interest or general interest in which the public or a class of the community have pecuniary interest or some interest by which their legal rights or liabilities are affected."

8. In para 62 of the said judgment, it was pointed out as follows: (SCC p. 334)

"Be that as it may, it is needless to emphasise that the requirement of locus standi of a party to a litigation is mandatory; because the legal capacity of the party to any litigation whether in private or public action in relation to any specific remedy sought for has to be primarily ascertained at the threshold."

9. In para 98 of the said judgment, it has further been pointed out as follows: (SCC pp. 345-46)

"While this Court has laid down a chain of notable decisions with all emphasis at their command about the importance and significance of this newly developed doctrine of PIL, it has also hastened to sound a red alert and a note of severe warning that courts should not allow its process to be abused by a mere busybody or a meddlesome interloper or wayfarer or officious



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intervener without any interest or concern except for personal gain or private profit or other oblique consideration."

10. In subsequent paras of the said judgment, it was observed as follows: (SCC p. 348, para 109)

"It is thus clear that only a person acting bona fide and having sufficient interest in the proceeding of PIL will alone have a locus standi and can approach the court to wipe out the tears of the poor and needy, suffering from violation of their fundamental rights, but not a person for personal gain or private profit or political motive or any oblique consideration. Similarly a vexatious petition under the colour of PIL brought before the court for vindicating any personal grievance, deserves rejection at the threshold."

11. It is depressing to note that on account of such trumpery proceedings initiated before the courts, innumerable days are wasted, which time otherwise could have been spent for the disposal of cases of the genuine litigants. Though we spare no efforts in fostering and developing the laudable concept of PIL and extending our long arm of sympathy to the poor, the ignorant, the oppressed and the needy whose fundamental rights are infringed and violated and whose grievances go unnoticed, unrepresented and unheard; yet we cannot avoid but express our opinion that while genuine litigants with legitimate grievances relating to civil matters involving properties worth hundreds of millions of rupees and substantial rights and criminal cases in which persons sentenced to death facing the gallows under untold agony and persons sentenced to life imprisonment and kept in incarceration for long years, persons suffering from undue delay in service matters – government or private, persons awaiting the disposal of tax cases wherein huge amounts of public revenue or unauthorized collection of tax amounts are locked up, detenus expecting their release from the detention orders etc. etc. are all standing in a long serpentine queue for years with the fond hope of getting into the courts and having their grievances redressed, the busybodies, meddlesome interlopers, wayfarers or officious interveners having absolutely no real public interest except for personal gain or private profit either of themselves or as a proxy of others or for any other extraneous motivation or for glare of publicity, break the queue muffling their faces by wearing the mask of public interest litigation and get into the courts by filing vexatious and frivolous petitions of luxury litigants who have nothing to lose



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but trying to gain for nothing and thus criminally waste the valuable time of the courts and as a result of which the queue standing outside the doors of the courts never moves, which piquant situation creates frustration in the minds of the genuine litigants.

12. Public interest litigation is a weapon which has to be used with great care and circumspection and the judiciary has to be extremely careful to see that behind the beautiful veil of public interest an ugly private malice, vested interest and/or publicity-seeking is not lurking. It is to be used as an effective weapon in the armoury of law for delivering social justice to the citizens. The attractive brand name of public interest litigation should not be allowed to be used for suspicious products of mischief. It should be aimed at redressal of genuine public wrong or public injury and not publicity-oriented or founded on personal vendetta. As indicated above, courts must be careful to see that a body of persons or member of public, who approaches the court is acting bona fide and not for personal gain or private motive or political motivation or other oblique consideration. The court must not allow its process to be abused for oblique considerations by masked phantoms who monitor at times from behind. Some persons with vested interest indulge in the pastime of meddling with judicial process either by force of habit or from improper motives and try to bargain for a good deal as well to enrich themselves. Often they are actuated by a desire to win notoriety or cheap popularity. The petitions of such busybodies deserve to be thrown out by rejection at the threshold, and in appropriate cases with exemplary costs.

13. The Council for Public Interest Law set up by the Ford Foundation in USA defined "public interest litigation" in its Report of Public Interest Law, USA, 1976 as follows:

"Public interest law is the name that has recently been given to efforts which provide legal representation to previously unrepresented groups and interests. Such efforts have been undertaken in the recognition that ordinary marketplace for legal services fails to provide such services to significant segments of the population and to significant interests. Such groups and interests include the proper environmentalists, consumers, racial and ethnic minorities and others."

14. The court has to be satisfied about: (a) the credentials of the applicant; (b) the prima facie



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correctness or nature of information given by him; and (c) the information being not vague and indefinite. The information should show gravity and seriousness involved. Court has to strike a balance between two conflicting interests: (i) nobody should be allowed to indulge in wild and reckless allegations besmirching the character of others; and (ii) avoidance of public mischief and to avoid mischievous petitions seeking to assail, for oblique motives, justifiable executive actions. In such case, however, the court cannot afford to be liberal. It has to be extremely careful to see that under the guise of redressing a public grievance, it does not encroach upon the sphere reserved by the Constitution to the executive and the legislature. The court has to act ruthlessly while dealing with imposters and busybodies or meddlesome interlopers impersonating as public-spirited holy men. They masquerade as crusaders of justice. They pretend to act in the name of pro bono publico, though they have no interest of the public or even of their own to protect.

15. Courts must do justice by promotion of good faith, and prevent law from crafty invasions. Courts must maintain the social balance by interfering where necessary for the sake of justice and refuse to interfere where it is against the social interest and public good. (See *State of Maharashtra v. Prabhu* (1994 (2) SCC 481 = 1994 SCC (L&S) 676) and *A.P. State Financial Corpn. v. Gar Re-Rolling Mills* (1994 (2) SCC 647 = AIR 1994 SC 2151. No litigant has a right to unlimited draught on the court time and public money in order to get his affairs settled in the manner as he wishes. Easy access to justice should not be misused as a licence to file misconceived and frivolous petitions. [See *Buddhi Kota Subbarao (Dr) v. K. Parasaran* (1996 (5) SCC 530 = 1996 SCC (Cri) 1038 = JT 1996 (7) SC 265] Today people rush to courts to file cases in profusion under this attractive name of public interest. Self-styled saviours who have no face or ground in the midst of public at large, of late, try to use such litigations to keep themselves busy and their names in circulation, despite having really become defunct in actual public life and try to smear and smirch the solemnity of court proceedings. They must really inspire confidence in courts and among the public, failing which such litigation should be axed with a heavy hand and dire consequences.

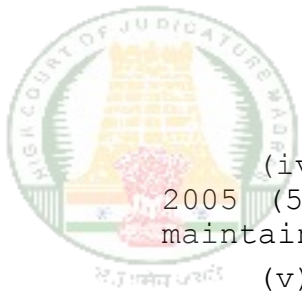
16. As noted supra, a time has come to weed out the petitions, which though titled as public interest litigations are in essence something else. It is



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shocking to note that courts are flooded with a large number of so-called public interest litigations, whereas only a minuscule percentage can legitimately be called as public interest litigations. Though the parameters of public interest litigation have been indicated by this Court in a large number of cases, yet unmindful of the real intentions and objectives, courts at times are entertaining such petitions and wasting valuable judicial time which, as noted above, could be otherwise utilized for disposal of genuine cases. Though in *Duryodhan Sahu (Dr) v. Jitendra Kumar Mishra* (1998) 7 SCC 273, this Court held that in service matters PILs should not be entertained, the inflow of the so-called PILs involving service matters continues unabated in the courts and strangely are entertained. The least the High Courts could do is to throw them out on the basis of the said decision. This tendency is being slowly permitted to percolate for setting in motion criminal law jurisdiction, often unjustifiably just for gaining publicity and giving adverse publicity to their opponents. The other interesting aspect is that in the PILs, official documents are being annexed without even indicating as to how the petitioner came to possess them. In one case, it was noticed that an interesting answer was given as to its possession. It was stated that a packet was lying on the road and when out of curiosity the petitioner opened it, he found copies of the official documents. Apart from the sinister manner, if any, of getting such copies, the real brain or force behind such cases would get exposed to find out whether it was a bona fide venture. Whenever such frivolous pleas are taken to explain possession, the court should do well not only to dismiss the petitions but also to impose exemplary costs, as it prima facie gives impression about oblique motives involved, and in most cases shows proxy litigation. Where the petitioner has not even a remote link with the issues involved, it becomes imperative for the court to lift the veil and uncover the real purpose of the petition and the real person behind it. It would be desirable for the courts to filter out the frivolous petitions and dismiss them with costs as aforestated so that the message goes in the right direction that petitions filed with oblique motive do not have the approval of the courts."

(iii) In *Dr.B.Singh (Dr.) v. Union of India*, reported in (2004) 3 SCC 363, the Hon'ble Supreme Court decided the case on the same lines and held that PIL is not maintainable in service matters.



(iv) In Gural Singh vs. State of Punjab, reported in JT 2005 (5) SC 389, the Hon'ble Apex Court held that PIL is not maintainable in service matters.

(v) In Indian Consumers Welfare Council vs. Union of India and another, reported in 2005 (3) L.W. 522, the abovesaid Council, filed a public interest writ petition, challenging a notification, issued by the 2nd respondent therein, by which, applications were invited, from degree holders, with degree in education, and consequently, prayed for a direction to the respondent therein, to appoint only those teachers, who were trained in teaching primary sections, for handling classes from 1st to 7th standards, to the post of Secondary Grade Teachers. Following the decision in Gopal Singh vs. State of Punjab, reported in 2005 J.T. [5] SC 389, the Hon'ble Apex Court ordered as follows:-

"This is a public interest litigation in respect of a service matter. It has been repeatedly held by the Supreme Court that no public interest litigation lies in service matters, the last decision being Gopal Singh vs. State of Punjab (2005 J.T. [5] SC 389. Accordingly, this writ petition is dismissed."

(vi) In N.Veerarajam vs. Union of India, reported in (2005) 2 MLJ 564, while considering a public interest litigation filed by a treasurer of a political party, praying to take action against Mrs.Lakshmi Praneeth, IAS, the fifth respondent therein, under the All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1969, for allegedly making allegations against a leader of a political party, following the above judgments of the Honourable Apex Court, a Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court held as follows:-

"It is settled law that no writ in the form of public interest litigation will lie under Article 226 of the Constitution in service matters. The petitioner has no locus standi to file the public interest litigation. The extraordinary powers of the High Court under Art.226 of the Constitution in matters of this kind is required to be used sparingly and only in extraordinary cases." "The service matters are essentially between the employer and the employee and it would be for the State to take action under the Service Rules and there is no question of any public interest involved in such matters."

"The petition is not only not maintainable either in law of facts but also would amount to abuse of the process of Court."

(vii) In B.Srinivasa Reddy vs. Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board Employees Association and others, reported in 2006 (11) SCC 731, at paragraph 61, the Apex Court held that in service matters only the non appointees can assail the legality



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12) We have already pointed out that the person who approached the High Court by way of a Public Interest Litigation is not a competitor or eligible to be considered as a Member or Chairman of the Board but according to him, he is a Vidyut Shramik Leader. Either before the High Court or in this Court, he has not placed any material or highlighted on what way he is suitable and eligible for that post.

.....

The same principles have been reiterated in the subsequent decisions, namely, Dr. B. Singh vs. Union of India and Others, (2004) 3 SCC 363, Dattaraj Nathuji Thaware vs. State of Maharashtra and Others, (2005) 1 SCC 590 and Gural Singh vs. State of Punjab and Others, (2005) 5 SCC 136.

15) The above principles make it clear that except for a writ of quo warranto, Public Interest Litigation is not maintainable in service matters.

(xi) In Girjesh Shrivastava and others vs. State of Madhya Pradesh and others, reported in 2010 (10) SCC 707, appointments were challenged in PIL, on the grounds of contravention of rules, regarding reservation of ex-servicemen. The High Court allowed the writ petition and ordered cancellation of appointments, and dismissed the review petitions also. While considering the issue, as to whether the matter ought to have been taken, as service dispute and not PIL, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, after considering a catena of decisions, at paragraphs 14 to 19 has held as follows:-

14. However, the main argument by the appellants against entertaining WP (C) 1520/2001 and WP (C) 63/2002 is on the ground that a PIL in a service matter is not maintainable. This Court is of the opinion that there is considerable merit in that contention.

15. It is common ground that dispute in this case is over selection and appointment which is a service matter.

16. In the case of Dr. Duryodhan Sahu and others vs. Jitendra Kumar Mishra and others (1998) 7 SCC 273, a three judge Bench of this Court held a PIL is not maintainable in service matters. This Court, speaking through Srinivasan, J. explained the purpose of administrative tribunals created under Article 323-A in the backdrop of extraordinary jurisdiction of the High Courts under Articles 226 and 227. This Court held "if public interest litigations at the instance of strangers are allowed to be entertained by the (Administrative) Tribunal, the very object of speedy



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disposal of service matters would get defeated" (para 18). Same reasoning applies here as a Public Interest Litigation has been filed when the entire dispute relates to selection and appointment.

17. In *B. Srinivasa Reddy v. Karnataka Urban Water Supply & Drainage Board Employees' Association and others*, reported in (2006) 11 SCC 731 (II), this Court held that in service matters only the non-appointees can assail the legality of the appointment procedure (See para 61, page 755 of the report).

18. This view was very strongly expressed by this Court in *Dattaraj Nathuji Thaware v. State of Maharashtra and others*, reported in (2005) 1 SCC 590, by pointing out that despite the decision in *Duryodhan Sahu* (supra), PILs in service matters 'continue unabated'. This Court opined that High Courts should 'throw out' such petitions in view of the decision in *Duryodhan Sahu* (supra) (Para 16, page 596).

19. Same principles have been reiterated in *Ashok Kumar Pandey v. State of W.B.*, reported in (2004) 3 SCC 349, at page 358 (Para 16).

(xii) In *Soma Velandi vs. Dr. Anthony Elangovan*, reported in 2010 (4) CTC 8, following *Gurpal Singh vs. State of Punjab*, reported in JT 2005 (5) SC 389, a Hon'ble Division Bench held that PIL is not maintainable in service matters.

(xiii) In *Bholanath Mukherjee and others vs. Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Centenary College and others*, reported in 2011 (5) SCC 464, before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, a direction to set aside the appointment of the 3rd respondent therein, as Principal, was sought for, as the 3rd respondent was junior, to them, and did not have the requisite qualification. Reiterating the legal position that PIL is not maintainable in service matters, the Hon'ble Apex Court declined to entertain the challenge to the notices issued to Ramakrishna Mission to reconstitute the committees.

(xiv) Though the present writ petition has been filed by a practicing advocate, we wish to incorporate the views of the Hon'ble Apex Court, while entertaining Public Interest Writ Petition, in *Ayaaubkhan Noorkhan Pathan vs. State of Maharashtra and others*, reported in 2013 (4) SCC 465. At paragraphs 14 and 15, the Apex Court, observed as follows:-

14. This Court has consistently cautioned the courts against entertaining public interest litigation filed by unscrupulous persons, as such meddlers do not hesitate to abuse the process of the court. The right of effective access to justice, which has emerged with the new social rights regime, must be used to serve basic human rights, which purport to guarantee legal



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rights and, therefore, a workable remedy within the framework of the judicial system must be provided. Whenever any public interest is invoked, the court must examine the case to ensure that there is in fact, genuine public interest involved. The court must maintain strict vigilance to ensure that there is no abuse of the process of court and that, "ordinarily meddlesome bystanders are not granted a Visa. Many societal pollutants create new problems of non-redressed grievances, and the court should make an earnest endeavour to take up those cases, where the subjective purpose of the lis justifies the need for it. (Vide: P.S.R. Sadhanantham v. Arunachalam & Anr., AIR 1980 SC 856; Dalip Singh v. State of U.P. & Ors., (2010) 2 SCC 114; State of Uttaranchal v. Balwant Singh Chaufal & Ors., (2010) 3 SCC 402; and Amar Singh v. Union of India & Ors., (2011) 7 SCC 69)

15. Even as regards the filing of a Public Interest Litigation, this Court has consistently held that such a course of action is not permissible so far as service matters are concerned. (Vide: Dr. Duryodhan Sahu & Ors. v. Jitendra Kumar Mishra & Ors., AIR 1999 SC 114; Dattaraj Natthuji Thaware v. State of Maharashtra, AIR 2005 SC 540; and Neetu v. State of Punjab & Ors., AIR 2007 SC 758)

(xv) In Tmt.Sumathi and four others vs. State, rep. by the Chief Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu, Chennai and 15 others (W.P.No.25704/2013, Decided on 13.03.2014), a Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court, held that PIL is not maintainable in service matters.

(xvi) In a latest decision in Tmt.P.Lakshmi vs. State, rep. by the Chief Secretary, (W.P.No.25704/2013 Decided on 13.03.2014), the Hon'ble First Bench of this Court, held that writ petition is not maintainable in service matters.

7. Besides, as stated supra, the matter of appointment of Principal is subjudice in WA No.2225 of 2018 and for the abovesaid reasons, no order can be passed in the instant writ petition. Therefore, writ petition is dismissed. No costs.

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Sd/-

Assistant Registrar (CS VIII)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar



To

1. The Chief Secretary,
Union of India,
Government of Pondicherry,
Pondicherry.

2. The Principal Secretary to the Lt.Governor,
Government of Pondicherry,
Raj Nivas, Pondicherry.

3. The Secretary to Government,
Department of Arts and Culture,
Government of Pondicherry,
Pondicherry.

4. The Registrar,
Pondicherry University,
RV Nagar, Kalapet,
Pondicherry.

5. The Member Secretary,
Bharathiar Palakalai Koodam,
Cuddalore Main Road,
Ariyankuppam, Pondicherry.

+1cc to the Govt.Pleader, Vide Sr.No.57136

W.P.No.23937 of 2017

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