



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 28.08.2019

CORAM:

WEB COPY

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE S.M.SUBRAMANIAM

W.P.(MD)No.22207 of 2015

and

M.P(MD)Nos.1 & 2 of 2015

P.Karuppasamy

... Petitioner

Vs.

1.The Chief Engineer-Personnel,
Tamil Nadu Generation of Electricity
and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO),
No.800/144, Anna Salai,
Chennai-600 002.

2.The Superintending Engineer,
Virudhunagar Electricity Distribution Circle,
Tamil Nadu Generation of Electricity
and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO),
65/1, Ramamoorthy Road,
Virudhunagar District.

... Respondents

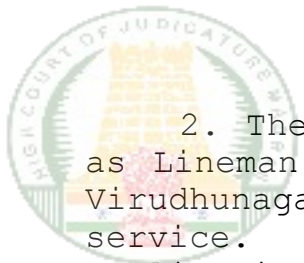
PRAYER: Writ Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, to issue a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus, calling for the records pertaining to the Rejection Letter of the second respondent in Letter No.002664, Ne Pe.2/Asst.2/Ko. Compassionate Appointment/2012-1 dated 24.02.2014 and quash the same and consequently direct the Respondents to appoint the petitioner on Compassionate Grounds on the death of Pandi, the Lineman died on harness on 06.03.1996.

For Petitioner : Mr.C.K.M.Appaji

For Respondents : Mr.G.Kasinathadurai
Standing Counsel

ORDER

The order of rejection, dated 24.02.2014 rejecting the claim of the writ petitioner for compassionate appointment is under challenge in the present writ petition.



2. The father of the writ petitioner Shri.A.Pandi was employed as Lineman in the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, Virudhunagar East, Virudhunagar District and died on 06.03.1996 while he was in service. The mother of the writ petitioner initially submitted an application seeking appointment on compassionate ground on 26.02.1999. However, the mother of the writ petitioner had not pursued the application and therefore, the writ petitioner submitted an application on attaining the majority on 9.2.2012 to provide appointment on compassionate ground. The writ petitioner during the relevant point of time was a minor and therefore, there was a delay in submitting the application. The application itself is submitted after a lapse of 16 years from the date of death of the deceased employee. The said application submitted by the writ petitioner for appointment on 9.2.2012 is rejected by the respondent in the impugned proceedings dated 24.02.2014.

3. The learned counsel appearing on behalf of the writ petitioner states that the petitioner was a minor at the time of death of his father and thereafter, attaining the age of majority, he filed an application.

4. The period of three years is to be reckoned from the date of attaining the age of majority is the contention raised on behalf of the writ petitioner. However, the learned counsel for the respondents opposed the said contention by stating that the Board also issued the proceedings stating that the period of three years is to be reckoned from the date of death of the deceased employee and not from the date of attaining the age of majority. The said position was upheld by the Division Bench of the Madras High Court also. In view of the fact that the writ petitioner submitted an application beyond the period of three years, the case of the petitioner cannot be considered.

5. The fact remains that the deceased employee passed away on 6.3.1996 and the writ petitioner submitted an application on 9.2.2012 and it was rejected in the year 2014, now after a lapse of about 23 years from the date of death of the deceased employee, the scheme of compassionate appointment cannot be granted in view of the legal principles settled by the Courts.

6. The Honourable Supreme Court of India, in the in the case of Government of India and another vs. P.Venkatesh, in Civil Appeal No.2425 of 2019, dated 01.03.2019, has held as follows:

"The primary difficulty in accepting the line of submissions, which weighed with the High Court, and were reiterated on behalf of the respondent in these proceedings, is simply this: Compassionate appointment, it is well-settled, is intended to enable the family of a deceased employee to tide over the crisis which is caused as a result of the death of an



employee, while in harness. The essence of the claim lies in the immediacy of the need. If the facts of the present case are seen, it is evident that even the first recourse to the Central Administrative Tribunal was in 2007, nearly eleven years after the death of the employee. In the meantime, the first set of representations had been rejected on 3 January 1997. The Tribunal, unfortunately, passed a succession of orders calling upon the appellants to consider and then re-consider the representations for compassionate appointment. After the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting rejected the representation on 13 November 2007, it was only in 2010 that the Tribunal was moved again, with the same result. These successive orders of Tribunal for re-consideration of the representation cannot obliterate the effect of the initial delay in moving the Tribunal for compassionate appointment over a decade after the death of the deceased employee. This 'dispose of the representation' mantra is increasingly permeating the judicial process in the High Courts and the Tribunals. Such orders may make for a quick or easy disposal of cases in overburdened adjudicatory institutions. But, they do no service to the cause of justice. The litigant is back again before the Court, as this case shows, having incurred attendant costs and suffered delays of the legal process. This would have been obviated by calling for a counter in the first instance, thereby resulting in finality to the dispute. By the time, the High Court issued its direction on 9 August 2016, nearly twenty one years had elapsed since the date of the death of the employee."

7. The Apex Court in the case of State of Himachal Pradesh and another vs. Shashi Kumar, reported in (2019) 3 SCC 653, has ruled as follows:

"18. While considering the rival submissions, it is necessary to bear in mind that compassionate appointment is an exception to the general rule that appointment to any public post in the service of the State has to be made on the basis of principles which accord with Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution. Dependants of a deceased employee of the State are made eligible by virtue of the policy on compassionate appointment. The basis of the policy is that it recognises that a family of a deceased employee may be placed in a position of financial hardship upon the untimely death of the employee while in service. It



is the immediacy of the need which furnishes the basis for the State to allow the benefit of compassionate appointment. Where the authority finds that the financial and other circumstances of the family are such that in the absence of immediate assistance, it would be reduced to being indigent, an application from a dependent member of the family could be considered. The terms on which such applications would be considered are subject to the policy which is framed by the State and must fulfil the terms of the policy. In that sense, it is a well-settled principle of law that there is no right to compassionate appointment. But, where there is a policy, a dependent member of the family of a deceased employee is entitled to apply for compassionate appointment and to seek consideration of the application in accordance with the terms and conditions which are prescribed by the State.

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35. Insofar as the individual facts pertaining to the respondent are concerned, it has emerged from the record that the writ petition before the High Court was instituted on 11-5-2015. The application for compassionate appointment was submitted on 8-5-2007. On 15-1-2008 the Additional Secretary had required that the amount realised by way of pension be included in the income statement of the family. The respondent waited thereafter for a period in excess of seven years to move a petition under Article 226 of the Constitution. In Umesh Kumar Nagpal, this Court has emphasised that the basis of a scheme of compassionate appointment lies in the need of providing immediate assistance to the family of the deceased employee. This sense of immediacy is evidently lost by the delay on the part of the dependant in seeking compassionate appointment.

36. We are not impressed with the submission that delay should not be taken into account since Para(8) of the policy/scheme contemplates that in a situation where all the dependent children of the deceased employee have yet to attain the age of majority, the time-limit for submission of an application is extended until the first of the children attains the age of twenty-one years. A case where each of the children is a minor falls in a different class altogether. This cannot be equated with a situation where a dependant of a deceased employee who was a



major on the date of death fails to submit an application within a reasonable period of time from the death of the employee. This aspect of delay has been dealt with in other decisions of this Court, including State of J & K v. Sajad Ahmed Mir and Local Admn. Deptt. v. M. Selvanayagam.

37. We see no reason or purpose in now directing the State to reconsider its decision in the case of the respondent which would only result in another round of fruitless litigation. In our view, the respondent is debarred from seeking compassionate appointment by the delay as well as by the lapse of time which has taken place."

8. Accordingly, the writ petition stands dismissed. No costs. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petitions are closed.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar (CS-II)

// True Copy //

Sub Assistant Registrar

+1 CC to M/s.C.K.M.APPAJI, Advocate (SR-84096[F] dated 29/08/2019)

+1 CC to M/s.G.KASINATHADURAI, Advocate (SR-84285[F] dated 29/08/2019)

W.P. (MD) No. 22207 of 2015
28.08.2019

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