

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

CWP No.7074 of 2000 (O&M)

Date of Decision: 27.05.2019

Miss Valentina Singh

... Petitioner

Versus

Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana
Agricultural University Hisar and others

... Respondents

CORAM:- HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJIV NARAIN RAINA

Present: Mr. Amrit Paul, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Mr. R.K. Malik, Sr. Advocate,
with Mr. Digvijay Singh, Advocate,
for respondents No.1 to 6.

RAJIV NARAIN RAINA, J.(Oral)

1. The delay of 15 days in applying for the A.L. Fletcher Gold Medal has been sufficiently explained in paras.15 to 17 of the petition. I find therefrom sufficient cause and reasons to ignore the delay especially when the award is merit based and admittedly the petitioner's score was 63% and if one mark is added for NSS then it will be 64% whereas the 7th respondent who has been awarded the Gold Medal secured 61.20%.

2. I also find that the notice inviting applications for award of Gold Medal was not notified in the press media for old students to know the dates who had passed out from the B.Sc. (Home Science) degree course in the academic session 1997-98 to be aware of the happenings in the

University in the office of the Dean. The petitioner's address had changed on the retirement of her father from service.

3. The further delay of about a week from July 20, 1999, the date fixed for submitting objections, is also ignorable in view of the finding on 15 days' delay at the first stage of the process for which the last date for applying was January 15, 1999. I have carefully read the responses to paras.15 to 17 and 23 of the writ petition in the corresponding but clubbed paragraphs of the written statement of the University (not answered para-wise) and do not find therein a reliable and plausible defence to deny the petitioner a right of fair consideration for award of the A.L. Fletcher Gold Medal on her superior merit.

4. Consequently, the impugned order of rejection reported to have been made by the University on legal opinion deserves to be set aside without disturbing the Gold Medal already awarded to the 7th respondent-Miss Mallika Chaudhary.

5. It may be noticed that the 7th respondent was served with summons issued in this petition through her mother and evidence to this effect is on file. She has not come forward to contest the petition for nearly two decades and this is another reason why her accrued right as medal holder I feel should not be disturbed.

6. For what has been said before, the writ petition is allowed. The impugned order is quashed. The University is directed to re-consider the petitioner's case for award of A.L. Fletcher Gold Medal on her merit secured as per the criterion adopted in tie with the 7th respondent for B.Sc. (Home Science).

7. Such consideration be accorded by the respondent University within a month from the date of receipt of a certified copy of this order.

27.05.2019
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(RAJIV NARAIN RAINA)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes
Whether reportable	Yes/No