

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CWP No. 818 of 2018

Date of Decision : 10.04.2019

Shashi Gulati

...Petitioner

Versus

State of Haryana and others

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARSIMRAN SINGH SETHI

Present: Mr. H.C. Arora, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. C.S. Bakhshi, Additional Advocate General, Haryana.

Harsimran Singh Sethi, J.(Oral)

Reply on behalf of respondents No. 2 and 3 has been filed in Court today. The same is taken on record.

In the present writ petition, the claim which is being made by the petitioner is for the grant of interest from the Private Aided College.

Before the petitioner could argue on merit, learned counsel for the respondents states that the present writ petition is not maintainable before this Court at the first instance keeping in view the law laid down by the Division Bench of this Court in case titled as ***Management of S.D. Model Senior Secondary School & another Vs. District Judge-cum-Service Tribunal and another, 2014 (1) S.C.T. 652.*** Learned counsel for the respondents states that as per the said order, the jurisdiction to decide all the service disputes between a Managing Committee and an employee except in

the case of the Gratuity will lie to the Educational Tribunal and the cases with regard to the gratuity, the same will lie before the appropriate authority under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972. The relevant paragraph of the judgment passed by the Division Bench is as under:-

“23. In view of the above discussion, we concluded as under:

(i) That an Educational Tribunal constituted in terms of the direction of the Supreme Court in T.M.A Pai Foundation's case (supra), will not have the jurisdiction to decide issue of payment of gratuity, as the same is payable to the teaching and non-teaching staff in terms of the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

(ii) In respect of second question, the notification of the State Government constituting Educational Tribunal will include all service disputes arising out of an order passed by the Management, as appealable to the Educational Tribunal. Such right to appeal is not arising in view of the judgment in T.M.A Pai Foundation's case (supra), but in exercise of the executive powers of the State.

(iii) The State Government shall consider appropriate amendments in the Haryana School Education Act, 1995 in the light of statement made by Mr. Poonia before this Court expeditiously.

(iv) Since the controversy regarding the Forum for adjudication of disputes relating to payment of gratuity has been settled now, it shall be open to the aggrieved persons to seek redressal under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 in accordance with law, if the same is availed within two months from today. The payment deposited by the petitioners shall be subject to the decision of the Authority under the Payment of Gratuity Act.

Since the questions of law have been answered, the matter be placed before the learned Single Bench for appropriate decision.”

Faced with this situation, learned counsel for the petitioner states that the record of this case be sent to the Educational Tribunal, Kaithal for passing an appropriate order on the plea, which has been raised by the petitioner in the present writ petition.

In view of the statement made, let the record of this case be placed before the Educational Tribunal, Kaithal for appropriate order(s) on the plea raised by the petitioner in the present writ petition.

April 10, 2019
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(HARSIMRAN SINGH SETHI)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned? Yes/No
Whether reportable? Yes/No