

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH.**

CWP-14388-2020

Date of Decision : September 15, 2020

Akash Deep and others

..... PETITIONER(S)

VERSUS

State of Punjab and another

.... RESPONDENT(S)

CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SANJAY KUMAR

Present: Mr. P.K. Goklaney, Advocate, for the petitioner.
 Mr. Navdeep Chhabra, Deputy Advocate General, Punjab.

...

Sanjay Kumar, J.

The petitioners, 65 in number, were appointed as Rural Associate Teachers on contract basis pursuant to an advertisement dated 09.09.2012. They are presently being paid ₹ 6500/- per month. By way of this writ petition, they seek a direction to the authorities to extend to them the minimum of the pay scale granted to Masters/Mistresses working in the same department with the same qualifications and performing the same duties.

It appears that the petitioners got issued legal notice dated 17.03.2020 to the respondent-authorities ventilating their grievance and seeking relief. Their complaint is that no action has been taken thereon till

In the light of the law laid down by the Supreme Court in **State of Punjab and others vs. Jagjit Singh and others [2016(4) S.C.T. 641]**, it is not open to the authorities to discriminate between identically situated employees, in terms of the work performed by them, by denying them equal pay. As the petitioners have already brought their grievance to the notice of the authorities but no action has been taken thereon, it would be appropriate that the respondents deal with the issue in the first instance by applying their mind and taking necessary action, keeping in mind the law laid down by the Supreme Court.

The writ petition is accordingly disposed of directing the respondents to take appropriate action upon the petitioners' legal notice dated 17.03.2020. This exercise shall be completed expeditiously and in any event, not later than three months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

No order as to costs.

September 15, 2020
Kang

(Sanjay Kumar)
Judge

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