

NAFR

HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR**WPS No. 4448 of 2021**

Subodh Kumar Sahu S/o Shri Direndra Lal Sahu, Aged About 32 Years R/o Uday College Acc Road, Bogda Pull, Nandani Road, Jamul, Bhilai Chowk, District Durg Chhattisgarh. 491661

---- Petitioner**Versus**

1. State Of Chhattisgarh Through The Principal Secretary, Department Of School Education, Govt. Of Chhattisgarh, Mahanadi Bhawan, Atal Nagar, New Raipur (Chhattisgarh)
2. The Director, Directorate Of School Education, Govt. Of Chhattisgarh, Indrawati Bhawan, Atal Nagar, New Raipur Chhattisgarh
3. The District Education Officer, District Rajnandgaon (Chhattisgarh)
4. The Block Education Officer, Dongargaon, District Rajnandgaon Chhattisgarh
5. The District Collector, District Rajnandgaon Chhattisgarh

----Respondents

For Petitioner	:	Mr. Sangeet Kumar Kushwaha, Advocate
For State	:	Mr. Neeraj Pradhan, Panel Lawyer

Hon'ble Shri Justice P. Sam Koshy**Order on Board****25/08/2021**

1. Aggrieved by the order Annexure P/1 dated 17.07.2021 the present writ petition has been filed. Vide the impugned order the claim of the petitioner for compassionate appointment has been rejected. The rejection has been on the ground that the elder brother of the petitioner was found to be in government employment.
2. The brief facts relevant for the disposal of the present writ petition is that the father of the petitioner late Direndra Lal Sahu was working under the respondents as a Peon and who died in harness on 10.01.2021. Subsequent to his death, the petitioner has moved an

application for compassionate appointment, which has since been rejected by the impugned order leading to the filing of the present writ petition. The rejection is on the ground that one of the brothers of the petitioner Devendra Kumar Sahu and his wife both are in government employment and therefore the claim of the petitioner has been rejected. According to the petitioner, at the time of death of the deceased employee, it was the petitioner, who was totally dependent upon the deceased. Moreover, the mother of the petitioner i.e. wife of the deceased employee had already died earlier. It is the further contention of the petitioner that he is a person, who is physically handicapped and he suffers from Locomotor disability and the disability is to the extent of 80% disability.

3. The further contention of the petitioner is that the petitioner also belongs to the other backward class community. Since the petitioner was totally dependent upon the deceased employee, he had moved his application for compassionate appointment however the respondents authorities have in a technical manner rejected the claim of the petitioner only on the ground that the brother of the petitioner and his wife were found to be in government employment. According to the petitioner his brother Devendra Kumar Sahu and his wife were already in government employment and they had been married long back, even before the deceased employee had died in this case and therefore there was no dependency of the petitioner upon the said brother and this aspect has not been verified by the respondents and in a mechanical manner the impugned order has been passed.
4. It is the contention of the petitioner that since the brother of the petitioner and his wife were found to be in government employment

and not supporting financially to the petitioner, they do not fall within the definition of dependents of the deceased. Moreover, the brother of the petitioner or his wife cannot be considered to be a permanent source of income for the petitioner for sustaining himself. To that extent the authorities ought to have conducted an enquiry and thereafter should have taken a decision.

5. The State counsel on the other hand opposing the petition submits that since the brother of the petitioner and his wife both are already in government employment, in terms of the policy for compassionate appointment the candidature of the petitioner has been rejected and in the absence of any challenge to the policy, the decision of the respondents cannot be said to be bad.
6. At this juncture, it would be relevant to take note of a recent judgment passed by this Court in **WPS No. 1025/2020 (Nandini Pradhan & another Vs. State of Chhattisgarh & Others)**. The said Writ Petition was allowed on 18.2.2020 wherein the Court has relied upon the judgment passed on an earlier occasion in the case of **Smt. Sulochana Netam Vs. State of Chhattisgarh & Others in WPS No. 2728/2017 decided on 23.11.2017** wherein this Court had allowed the said Writ Petition and set-aside the earlier order passed by the authorities and had remitted the matter back for a fresh consideration of the claim of Petitioner after due verification of dependency aspect, firstly upon the deceased employee and secondly whether the brother of Petitioner who is in government employment is providing any assistance to Petitioner or not and also whether that brother has married and has his own family or not and whether he is staying along with petitioner or not. These are the facts which ought to have been

verified while rejecting the claim of Petitioner in the present Writ Petition and which does not seem to have been considered by the authorities and they simply passed an order on hypertechnical ground specifically disentitling the Petitioner for claiming compassionate appointment in the event of family members of deceased employee being in government employment.

7. This Court is of the firm view that the intention by which the said clause inserted by the State Government in the policy of compassionate appointment was to ensure that the compassionate appointment can be given to a person whose is more needy. It never meant that in the event of there being somebody in the government employment in the family of deceased employee, the claim for compassionate appointment would stand rejected only on that ground. Moreover, in the opinion of this Court the possibility cannot be ruled out of the so called earning members and the so called persons who are in government employment from among the family members of deceased employee having their own family liabilities and in some cases are far away from the place of deceased employee and staying along with their own family. The rejection of the claim for compassionate appointment to a person who was directly dependant upon the earnings of deceased employee would be arbitrary and would also be in contravention of the intentions of framing the scheme for compassionate appointment.
8. In the case of **Sulochana** (supra), in paragraph 9, this Court dealing with the said issue has held as under:-

“9. In the considered opinion of this Court, in a case, where claim of compassionate appointment is made on the ground that the other member of the family had started living

separately and not providing any financial help to the remaining dependent members of the family, who are at lurch, factual enquiry ought to be made by the competent authority to arrive at its own conclusion of facts as to whether this assertion of other earning member living separately is factually correct or not. If it is found, as a matter of fact, that the other earning member of the family at the time of death had already started living separately and not providing financial assistance to the remaining dependents of the family, compassionate appointment must follow to eligible dependent of the family. However, in the enquiry, if it is found that the claim is only to get employment without there being any need because other earning member of the family is not living separately and providing financial support compassionate appointment may not follow. The aforesaid enquiry is required to be done even though the policy does not categorically state so. The State should consider by incorporating amendments in the policy to deal with this such contingency where it is found that on the date of death of government servant, the other earning member was living separately and not providing any financial help.”

9. The aforesaid principles of law laid down in the case of **Sulochana** (supra) have been followed by this Court in a large number of cases and that is the consistent stand of the various branches of this Court in the past many years now. This Court is also in the given circumstances inclined to hold that the rejection of the application of Petitioner for compassionate appointment by a single line order only on the basis of the clause mentioned in the scheme or policy of compassionate appointment of the State Government would not be sustainable. There ought to have been some sort of preliminary enquiry so far as dependency part is concerned conducted by the Respondents prior to reaching to a conclusion.
10. Considering the fact that brother of the petitioner and his wife both are in government employment, what needs to be verified is whether the said person can be brought within the ambit of dependent. Whether the said person can be compelled to take care of the petitioner particularly when they have been living separately altogether.
11. In the absence of any such situation, the policy of the State Govt. to that extent so far as compassionate appointment is concerned, has to

be read down to be decided only after an enquiry which needs to be conducted by the respondents, ascertaining the dependency part and also in respect of any support which the is getting from the brother. For the aforesaid reason, the impugned order needs to be reconsidered and the rejection of the candidature of the petitioner by strict interpretation of the policy would not be sustainable.

12. Thus, for all the aforesaid reasons, the impugned order dated 17.07.2021 deserve to be and is accordingly set-aside. The authorities are directed to re-consider the claim of the Petitioner afresh taking into consideration the observations made by this Court in the preceding paragraphs and take a fresh decision at the earliest within an outer limit of 90 days from the date of receipt of copy of this order.

13. Writ Petition is allowed and disposed of accordingly.

Sd/-
(P. Sam Koshy)
Judge

Ved