

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

**CWP No.2432-2021 (O&M)
Date of Decision:17.02.2021**

Subhash Chand Sharma and others

.....Petitioners

Versus

Food Corporation of India and another

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE TEJINDER SINGH DHINDSA

Present:- Mr. S.P. Soi, Advocate for the petitioners.

Mr. K.K. Gupta, Advocate for the respondents.

TEJINDER SINGH DHINDSA J.(Oral)

This case has been taken up through Video Conferencing via Webex facility in the light of Pandemic Covid-19 situation and as per instructions.

As per pleadings on record the petitioners herein are the ex-employees of the Food Corporation of India.

Instant writ petition has been filed raising an innocuous prayer for issuance of a mandamus directing the respondents to complete the processing of the medical claim bills that the petitioners had submitted.

Case projected on behalf of the petitioners was that the reimbursement of medical bills ought to be processed and completed within a period of 60 working days.

Upon perusal of the pleadings on record, this Court finds that an order dated 20.08.2020 (Annexure P-3) had been passed by the Manager (Admin.), Food Corporation of India, Divisional Office, Patiala, and as per

which the membership of the petitioners herein of the Post-Retirement Medical Scheme (PRMS) has been suspended pursuant to a certain enquiry having taken place and it having come to notice that false medical claims for in-door treatment had been submitted. Apart from suspending the membership of the petitioners from the Post Retirement Medical Scheme, they were also called upon to explain their position as regards the false medical claims submitted and termination of such benefit was contemplated.

Apparently petitioners have responded to the order dated 20.08.2020 (Annexure P-3) by submitting separate replies. Writ petition was silent on the aspect as to whether any final decision thereafter had been taken.

Petition had been taken for hearing in the pre-lunch session. Mr. K.K. Gupta, Advocate, who is the standing counsel for Food Corporation of India, was contacted and he was thereafter requested to complete instructions in the matter.

Hearing has resumed in the post lunch session.

Mr. K.K. Gupta, apprises the Court that it is a serious matter and had been taken up for consideration even at the Zonal Office. It is submitted that the matter is still under active consideration and a final decision as yet has not been taken.

In view of the peculiar facts and circumstances noticed hereinabove and without opining on the merits of the case/controversy, writ petition is disposed of with a direction to the competent authority under the Food Corporation of India to delve into the matter in depth and to take a final

decision in the matter pursuant to issuance of office order dated 20.08.2020 (Anenxure P-3) expeditiously and in any case within a period of 10 weeks from the date of receipt of certified copy of this order.

The final decision so taken would be duly conveyed to the petitioners.

Disposed of.

(TEJINDER SINGH DHINDSA)
JUDGE

February 17, 2021

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