

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

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CWP No.9468 of 2021

Date of Decision: 19.07.2021

Chetan Dass and others

....Petitioners

VERSUS

Punjabi University, Patiala and others

....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE ALKA SARIN

Present: Mr. Ranjit Singh Kalra, Advocate for the petitioners.

Mr. H.S. Batth, Advocate for the respondents.

ALKA SARIN, J. (Oral)

Heard through video conferencing.

Grievance of the petitioners in the present petition is that 37 petitioners were promoted from Peon (Class-IV) to Class-III on 13.02.2020 and were paid their salaries only of Peon (Class-IV) till June 2020. The said 37 petitioners have till date not got their arrears. Three of the petitioners were promoted from Class-IV to Class-III on 18.03.2020 and seven petitioners on 18.09.2020. The three petitioners promoted on 18.03.2020 got their salaries for Class-III post from June 2020 onwards and the seven petitioners who were promoted on 18.09.2020 got their salaries for Class-III post only from October, 2020. Learned counsel for the petitioners would further contend that arrears of the petitioners have not been cleared till date.

Mr.H.S. Baath, Advocate appearing for the respondents is not in a position to dispute the fact that the said arrears have not been released to the petitioners till date. He, however, submits that due to financial crunch being faced by the respondent-University and due to closure of the

University as a result of Covid-19 Pandemic, the said arrears could not be cleared. On a specific query being put to the counsel for the respondent-University, he is not in a position to deny the fact that the senior functionaries including the Registrar are getting their full salaries on regular basis. There is no justifiable explanation forthcoming for not clearing the arrears of the petitioners. Learned counsel for the respondents, on instructions from the Registrar of the University, states that the needful will be done within a period of two months from the date of receipt of certified copy of this order.

Learned counsel for the petitioners states that the petitioners would be satisfied if the present petition is disposed off on the basis of statement of learned counsel for the respondents.

In view of the statement made by learned counsel for the respondents, the present petition is disposed off with a direction to the respondent-University to clear the arrears of salary of the petitioners expeditiously, in accordance with law, and in any case within a period of two months from the date of receipt of certified copy of this order. It shall, however, be open to the petitioners to agitate their right for interest on the delayed payment with the respondent-University.

Disposed off accordingly.

(ALKA SARIN)
JUDGE

19th July, 2021
jk

NOTE: Whether speaking/non-speaking: Speaking
Whether reportable: YES/NO