

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

W.P.(C) No.5340 of 2022

Sanjib Kumar Rout

....

Petitioner

Ms. B.K. Pattanaik, Advocate

-versus-

State of Odisha and others

....

Opposite Parties

Mr. Y.S.B. Babu, A.G.A.

CORAM:

JUSTICE A.K. MOHAPATRA

ORDER

28.03.2022

Order No.

01.

1. This matter is taken up through Hybrid Arrangement (Virtual /Physical Mode).
2. Heard learned counsel for the petitioner as well as learned counsel for the State.
3. The petitioner has filed this application seeking direction to the opposite parties to give him promotion to the post of Ranger from 30.12.2021, the date from which his immediate juniors got such promotions and to grant him all consequential service and financial benefits including further promotion within a stipulated time.
4. Moot question involves if a promotion of employee can be withheld for indefinite period on the premises of pendency of criminal proceeding over a period of decades.
5. This Court considering such situation has already settled the position of law keeping the sealed cover promotion aspect in view of pendency of the Disciplinary Proceeding and/or Criminal Proceeding for decades becomes bad.
6. Fact involving the case reveals that there is no disciplinary proceeding pending against the petitioner, one criminal case pending in

the Court of S.D.J.M., Keonjhar in G.R. Case No.1038 of 2011. Involving the allegation against the petitioner, it appears the Criminal Proceeding initiated in the year 2011, but charge-sheet involving the criminal case was submitted. However, the said criminal case is yet to be disposed of. Pleading also further made clear that no Disciplinary Proceeding initiated against the petitioner. In this background of case an allegation is made that promotion of the petitioner has not been considered only on the premises that a criminal proceeding involving the petitioner is pending since 2011. For the settled position of law, this Court in disposal of the writ petition observes, petitioner cannot suffer for the long pendency of the criminal proceeding. It is also not known when the Criminal Proceeding initiated in the year 2011 will come to end. It is keeping in this view, this Court in disposal of the writ petition directs the Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Govt. of Odisha, Forest and Environment Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar-Opposite Party No.1 to give promotion to the petitioner to the rank of Ranger from the date of his juniors and batchmates got such promotions. However, the promotions of the petitioner as per direction of this Court shall be subject to the ultimate outcome in the Criminal Proceeding. Further it is also clarified that the promotions given to the petitioner to different ranks shall not confer equity in the event, he will ultimately lose the Criminal case. Entire exercise shall be completed within four weeks from the date of communication of this direction. It is also clarified that upon promotion, petitioner shall also be entitled to all consequential benefits.

7. Writ the above observation, the writ petition thus stands disposed of.
8. Urgent certified copy of this order be granted on proper application.

(A.K. Mohapatra)
Judge

