

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

W.P.(C) No. 9866 of 2022

*Prasanta Kumar Sethy and another* .....

**Petitioner**

*Dr. P. Chuli, Advocate*

Vs.

*State of Odisha and others* .....

**Opposite parties**

*Mr. J.P. Patnaik, G.A.*

**CORAM:**

**DR. JUSTICE B.R. SARANGI**

**ORDER**

**14.12.2022**

**Order No.**

04

This matter is taken up through hybrid mode.

2. Heard.

3. The petitioner has filed this application seeking direction to the opposite parties to treat the petitioner at par with the employees of other aided educational institutions, who have been extended with grant-in-aid in accordance with grant-in-aid order 1994 and accordingly to extend all benefits as applicable to the aided educational institutions within the meaning of section 3 (b) of the Orissa Education Act, such as Leave benefits under the Orissa Education (Leave of Teachers and other Members of the Staff of Aided Educational Institutions) Rules, 1977, retiral and pensionary benefits under Orissa Aided Educational Institutions' Employees Retirement Benefit Rules, 1981 and GPF benefit under the Provisions of Orissa Aided Educational Institutions Employees' General Provident Funds Rules, 1983 as he is an employee of an aided educational institution.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner contended that since the petitioner is working in an educational institution receiving block grant, in view of the judgment passed in *Ritanjali Giri @ Paul v. State of Odisha (School & M.E. Deptt.) & others*, 2016 (I) ILR-1162 wherein this Court has already held that the legal heirs of deceased employees of educational institutions receiving block grant are entitled to get compassionate appointment, pursuant to which the Government of Odisha in the Department of School & Mass Education has issued a circular on 01.08.2019 granting benefit of compassionate appointment to the legal heirs of the deceased employees working in fully aided educational

institutions and educational institutions receiving grant-in-aid (New)/block grant, therefore, other benefits as claimed in the writ application should be extended to the petitioner.

5. Learned Standing Counsel for School and Mass Education Department contended that in view of law laid down in ***Ritanjali Giri @ Paul*** (supra) although benefit of compassionate appointment to the legal heirs of the deceased employees of educational institutions receiving block grant has already been extended by the State Government, pursuant to letter dated 01.09.2019, but so far as other claims as made in this writ application, the petitioners are not entitled to get the same, as because the benefit of Grant-in-Aid Order, 1994 was denied by this Court in ***State of Odisha v. Sri Lokanath Behera***, 2018 (II) OLR 932, which has been confirmed by the apex Court in Civil Appeal No. 7295 of 2019 arising out of SLP(C) No. 8343 of 2019 disposed of on 16.09.2019.

6. Considering the contentions raised by learned counsel for the parties and after going through the record, this Court is of the considered view that since the benefit of compassionate appointment to the legal heirs of deceased employees of educational institutions receiving block grant has already been extended by the authority, vide circular dated 01.08.2019, therefore, without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, the matter is remitted back to the authority concerned for consideration with regard to extension of other benefits as claimed in the writ application taking into account the ratio decided in ***Ritanjali Giri @ Paul*** (supra) within a period of four months from the date of communication of this order. Needless to mention, if it is found that the petitioners are entitled to get all the benefits, as claimed in the writ application in consonance with the law laid down in ***Ritanjali Giri @ Paul*** (supra), the same shall be granted within the time stipulated.

7. The writ petition is thus disposed of.