

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

W.P.(C) No.32913 of 2021

Sanjukta Sahu

.... ***Petitioner***
Mr. L. Mohanty, *Advocate*

-versus-

State of Odisha and others

.... ***Opp. Parties***
Mr. B. Mohanty,
Standing Counsel S & ME.

CORAM:

JUSTICE A.K. MOHAPATRA

ORDER

07.01.2022

Order No.

01. 1. This matter is taken up through Hybrid Arrangement (Video Conferencing/Physical Mode).
2. Heard Mr. L. Mohanty, learned counsel for the Petitioner and Mr. B. Mohanty, learned Standing Counsel appearing for the School and Mass Education Department.
3. The present writ petition has been filed by the Petitioner seeking for a direction to the Opposite Parties to grant retrospective promotion to the Petitioner to Jr. SES Cadre with notional benefit as directed by this Court in similar matters.
4. The recruitment to the post of teachers in the Government High School was regulated by the State Government under the Orissa Subordinate Education Service (General Branch) Rules, 1972. As per Sub-rule 3 of 1972 Recruitment Rules, all Subordinate offices under the control of Director shall form one unit. In the said Rules, there consists three Cadres (i) Lower Subordinate Education Service (LSES), (ii) Junior Subordinate Education Service (Jr. SES) and (iii)

Sr. SES.

5. As per Rule 10-A of Orissa Subordinate Education Service Rules, 1972, LSES teachers on completion three years of service with B.Ed qualification are eligible for promotion to Jr. SES cadre. As per Rule 10(B)(ii) of the said Rule the selection committee shall meet once a year ordinarily during the 1st week of April and prepare list of persons eligible for appointment by way of selection under Rule 10-A of said rule.

6. Two teachers, namely, R.K. Panda and another approached learned OAT, Cuttack in O.A. No.1673(C) of 1993 with a prayer to grant promotion to Jr. SES Cadre against the year wise vacancy of 1984 as they were appointed in LSES cadre in the year 1981. During pendency of the case, they were promoted to Jr. SES Cadre in the year 1994. The matter was heard by learned OAT, Cuttack and ultimately learned Tribunal relied upon decision of ***Binod Kumar Singhal vrs. Union of India*** : reported in 1994(2) SLR 695 and decided that departmental promotion committee is required under the instruction to meet every year for selecting persons for promotion on regular basis. Vacancy occurring during the relevant year cannot be clubbed together and zone of consideration cannot be enlarged. Ultimately, learned Tribunal directed to grant retrospective promotion to the Petitioner against the year wise vacancy, 1984 by convening special D.P.C. in their order dated 28.11.2007.

7. The Association of All Odisha Government School Teachers submitted a representation to Opposite Party No.1 dated 25.09.2010 to consider the cases of similarly placed persons for retrospective promotion to Jr. SES cadre against the year wise vacancy. On receipt of the representation the Opposite Party No.1 vide Letter dated

06.10.2010 directed the Opposite Party No.2 to consider the grievance of the teachers of Old Government High School who were eligible for promotion to Jr. SES cadre on completion of three years of services.

8. The Opposite Party No.2 vide Letter dated 03.01.2011 intimated the Opposite Party No.1 that due to non-functioning of the State Selection Board as well as non-holding of DPC in every year, the deserving teachers of Government High School were not granted promotion, even though they are eligible for promotion to Jr. SES cadre for promotion on completion of three years of service in LSES cadre.

9. It is further pleaded that one Nabin Kumar Khamari similarly placed teacher had approached O.A. Tribunal in O.A. No.1804 of 1998 for grant of retrospective promotion against the year wise vacancy of the year 1986, as he was appointed in the year 1983, was promoted to Jr. SES Cadre in the year 1998.

It is submitted that the said Nabin Kumar Khamari was promoted to Jr. SES cadre in the year 1998. O.A. Tribunal vide order dated 07.09.2011 allowed the case with a direction to the Opposite Parties to grant retrospective promotion to said Nabin Kumar Khamari to Jr. SES cadre against the year wise vacancy 1986 with notional benefits.

10. Pursuant to order of O.A. Tribunal as well as order passed by the Opposite Party No.2 Director Secondary Education, Odisha, Bhubaneswar vide letter dated 26.02.2013 retrospective promotion was given to said Nabin Kumar Khamari from 10.08.1986. He was allowed to draw arrear salary from 13.08.1997 i.e. from the date of his joining in Jr. SES cadre.

11. After verification of records the Opposite Party No.2 prepared a list of 1138 similar placed old Government School teachers and submitted a report to Opposite Party No.1 vide letter dated 07.02.2014 with a recommendation to grant retrospective promotion against the year wise vacancies as has been granted in favour of Nabin Kumar Khamari and Rabinarayan Panda as per orders of O.A. Tribunal passed in O.A. No.1804 of 1998 and O.A. No.1673(C) of 1993. In the said recommendation, it has been clearly mentioned as follows:-

“It is a fact that the LSES teachers in old Government Schools were deprived of getting promotion to Jr. SES cadre due to non-holding of DPC every year, though they have requisite qualification i.e. continue service for a period of three years in LSES cadre having B.Ed qualification.”

12. Law is well settled that once a decision is rendered by any court of law and it is implemented by the authorities, such benefits are to be extended to similarly placed persons. The Hon'ble Apex Court of India in between ***K. Shephard and others vs. Union of India*** : reported in AIR 1988 S.C. 686 have decided that once a decision is taken by court of law and it is implemented by the authorities the said benefit is to be extended to similarly placed employees, even though they have not approached the court of law.

Similar view was taken by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter of ***Maharaj Bhatta and another vs. State of J.K. and others*** : reported in (2008) 9 SCC- 24. Their lordship decided that once a decision is taken by a court of law and State authorities have implemented the order the said benefit should have been extended to

all similarly placed persons.

13. In a recent decision Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter of *State of U.P. vrs. Arvind Kumar Srivastav* : reported in (2015) 1 SCC 347 that if a judgment has been delivered "in Rem with intention to give benefits to all similarly placed persons, the same benefit is to be given to all similarly placed persons, whether they approached the court or not. With such a pronouncement, a legal obligation is cast upon the authorities to extend the benefits accruing under any order/judgment to all similarly situated persons.

14. The Opposite Party No.2 vide order dated 29.09.2021 granted retrospective promotion to the petitioner in O.A. No.3885(C) of 2012, namely, Pratush Kumar Das by antedating his order of promotion to Jr. SES cadre w.e.f. 26.02.1988 (after completion of three regular service in LSES cadre with notional benefits.)

It is claimed by the learned counsel for the Petitioner that the Petitioner being similar placed to the applicant in O.A. No.3885(C) of 2012 and batch, is entitled for retrospective promotion to Jr. SES cadre w.e.f. 24.06.1997 (on completion of three years of service in LSES Cadre) with notional benefits. However, till date the said benefits has not been extended to him.

15. It is submitted that similar benefit has also been given by the Government vide order issued by the Government of Odisha School and Mass Education Department Letter No.25057 dated 23rd December, 2021. It is further submitted by learned counsel for the Petitioner that the Petitioner has submitted a representation to the Secretary, School and Mass Education Department, Odisha and seeks for a direction to the Opposite Party No.1 to consider such representation.

16. Learned counsel appearing for the School and Mass Education Department submits that he has no objection, if a direction is given to the Opposite Party No.1 to consider the representation of the Petitioner in the light of the analysis made hereinabove.

17. Having heard learned counsel for both the sides and after perusal of the records, this Court disposes of the writ petition with a direction to the Opposite Party No.1 to consider the representation of the Petitioner dated 19.8.2021 stated to be pending before the Opposite Party No.1 within a period of twelve weeks from the date of production of certified copy of this order. It is needless to mention here that the Opposite Party No.1 shall consider the case of the Petitioner taking into consideration all the materials placed before him as well as the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court (supra) and further keeping in view that the similar benefit has also been given to the similarly situated persons. The representation shall be disposed of by a speaking and a reasoned order and the decision thereon shall be communicated to the Petitioner within a period of ten days from the date of decision.

18. With the aforesaid observation and direction, the writ petition is disposed of.

19. Urgent certified copy of this order be granted on proper application.