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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY  
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

**WRIT PETITION NO. 5523 OF 2021**

Prakash Bhikaram Shingade & Ors. ... Petitioners  
*Versus*  
The State of Maharashtra & Ors. ... Respondents

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Mr. V. S. Tadke a/w Mr. Balaji S. Shinde for the Petitioners.  
Mrs. S. S. Bhende, AGP for the State-Respondent Nos. 1 to 5.  
Mr. Ajit Savagave for the Respondent Nos. 6 to 8.

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**CORAM: S. V. GANGAPURWALA &  
R. N. LADDHA, JJ.**

**DATE : 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2022**

**P.C. :-**

. We have heard the learned counsel for the Petitioners and the learned counsel for Respondents Nos. 6 to 8 Zilla Parishad and the learned Assistant Government Pleader for Respondents/State.

2. The Petitioners are challenging the impugned communication, whereby one step benefit granted to the Petitioners is withdrawn.

3. It is not disputed that the Petitioners are similarly situated persons as Petitioners in Writ Petition (ST) No. 9543 of 2021 with other connected Writ Petitions decided by this Court under order dated 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 at it's Principal Seat at Bombay.

4. In the light of that, we follow the same course. For the reasons recorded in the order dated 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 in Writ Petition (ST) No. 9543 of 2021 with other connected Writ Petitions, we pass the same

order.

5. The impugned action of recovery is accordingly withdrawn forthwith. The Petitioners have agreed to appear before the Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Palghar on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 at 11.00 a.m. It is thus made clear that the Petitioners would be allowed to appear through an advocate or an authorized representative before the Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Palghar. The Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Palghar to pass a fresh order after hearing the Petitioners through their respective advocates or authorized representatives without being influenced by the order of recovering the amount taken till date which is set aside by this order and shall decide the matter in accordance with law by interpreting the said G. R. dated 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2002 in right perspective and after taking into consideration the judgments of various Courts referred to and relied upon by the Petitioners in these Writ Petitions. The Petitioners would be at liberty to file written arguments along with representation before the Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Palghar within two weeks from today.

6. The Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Palghar shall decide the representation of the Petitioners within six weeks from the date of first hearing. The order that would be passed by the Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Palghar shall be conveyed to the Petitioners within two weeks from the date of passing such order. If the order that would be passed by the Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Palghar is adverse against the Petitioners, no coercive steps would be taken against the Petitioners for a period of four weeks from the date of

communication of the order.

7. The Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Palghar in the meanwhile shall continue to pay salaries of the Petitioners (one step pay scale) at the rate at which they were being paid prior to the date of recovery of amount.

8. The Writ Petitions are disposed of in the aforesaid terms. No costs.

**[R. N. LADDHA, J.]**

**[S. V. GANGAPURWALA, J.]**