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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT
CHANDIGARH**

CWP-20989-2023

Date of decision: 20.09.2023

Jaspal Singh and another

...Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and others

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE VIKAS BAHL

Present: Mr. Baldev S. Sidhu, Advocate for the petitioner.

Mr. Ferry Sofat, Addl. A.G. Punjab, for the respondents.

VIKAS BAHL, J. (ORAL)

1. This is a Civil Writ Petition filed under Articles 226/227 of the Constitution of India for issuance of a writ in the nature of mandamus directing the official respondents to allow the petitioners to deposit the continuation fees for the year 2023-24.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioners has submitted that both the petitioners are Principals of two different schools and they have given representations dated 29.08.2023 (Annexure P-12) and 31.08.2023 (Annexure P-13) to the respondent-Board, in which, prayer has been made for granting them extension of time to deposit the association continuation fees for the year 2023-24 as it could not be deposited upto 16.08.2023 on account of there being heavy rains and floods and other circumstances which are mentioned in the representations. It is further submitted that the school of which the petitioners are Principal have been depositing the said fees since several years. It is contended that the petitioners would be satisfied at this stage, in case the

competent authority of Punjab School Education Board takes a decision on the representations dated 29.08.2023 (Annexure P-12) and 31.08.2023 (Annexure P-13) in a time bound manner and in case the pleas raised by the petitioners are found to be meritorious then to grant necessary relief in accordance with law.

3. Learned State Counsel has submitted that the competent authority of Punjab School Education Board would consider the said representations dated 29.08.2023 (Annexure P-12) and 31.08.2023 (Annexure P-13) in accordance with law, as expeditiously as possible preferably within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt of certified copy of the present order.

4. Keeping in view the abovesaid facts and circumstances, the present Civil Writ Petition is disposed of with direction to the competent authority of Punjab School Education Board to consider representations dated 29.08.2023 (Annexure P-12) and 31.08.2023 (Annexure P-13) in accordance with law within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt of certified copy of the present order and in case the pleas raised by the petitioners are found to be meritorious then the competent authority would grant necessary relief, in accordance with law and in case, the competent authority is of the opinion that the pleas raised by the petitioners are not meritorious then a speaking order rejecting the same be passed within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt of certified copy of the present order.

5. This Court has not opined on the merits of the case and the competent authority would consider the case of the petitioners independently and in accordance with law.

20.09.2023*Pawan***(VIKAS BAHL)
JUDGE****Whether speaking/reasoned:- Yes/No****Whether reportable:- Yes/No**