

12.12.2024
Item No. 4, DL,
Court No.19
AJ.

W.P.A. 25659 of 2024

Pratima Maity Pradhan & Ors.
-Vs-
The State of West Bengal & Ors.

Mr. P.D. Mukherjee,
Ms. Ankita Das,
Mr. Ayush Shaw,
Ms. Bristi Chahdra.
.....for the petitioners.

Mr. Lal Mohan Basu.
...for the State.

Md. Sarwar Jahan,
Ms. Mousumi Mitra,
Ms. Tapati Sarkar.
....for the respondent no.4.

Affidavit of service filed on behalf of the
petitioners be kept with the records.

The petitioners are required to make good of
deficit court fees, let such payment be made on
course of this day.

The petitioners are the Sahayikas in
different Sishu Siksha Kendras (SSKs, in short),
all of them opted to avail the benefit of the
Notification of the Government of West Bengal,
School Education Department, Elementary
Education Branch, bearing Memo No: 979-
ES/EE/10M-164/19 dated December 18, 2019
for being treated as Para Teacher of Paschim
Banga Rajya Shishu Shiksha Mission. The
relevant paragraph of the said Notification is
quoted below:

“2. The Sahayaks/Sahayikas and Mukhya Sahayaks/Mukhya Sahayikas of SSKs, Samprasaraks/Samprasarikas and Mukhya Samprasaraks/Mukhya Samprasarikas of MSKs who are within the age of 60 years on the date 01.04.2020 shall be required to give their option in the format annexed herein, by 5 pm of 01/02/2020 to Mission Director of PBRSSM through the District Nodal Officer, SSK/MSK of the concerned district, for treating them at par with the Para Teachers of Paschim Banga Samagra Shiksha Mission under School Education Department, Govt. of West Bengal and engage them with similar terms and conditions as that of Para Teachers, to get similar benefits extended to the Para Teachers.”

The School Education Department failed to provide the benefit to the petitioners accrued to them on exercise of such option, the petitioners under such circumstances, are praying that they may be permitted to revert to their original status of Sahayikas and to continue their service as such, upto the age of 65 years.

Learned advocate for the petitioners, in aid of the relief as prayed for by the petitioners, places reliance on a decision of a Co-ordinate Bench of this Court in WPA 4524 of 2023

whereby identical prayer of similarly placed Sahayikas was allowed.

Mr. Jahan, learned Advocate for the Mission Director, Paschim Banga Rajya Shishu Shikhsha Mission, Government of West Bengal, the respondent no. 4 herein, does not raise any objection to such prayer of the petitioners.

The concerned respondent, therefore, is directed to allow the petitioners to maintain their status as Sahayika in the respective SSKs ignoring the options exercised by them under the aforementioned Notification and to allow them to continue in their such engagement up to the age of 65 years.

It is made clear that the petitioners will not be entitled to any of the benefits of Para Teachers.

WPA 25659 of 2024 is disposed of with the above terms, there shall however be no order as to costs.

Urgent photostat certified copy of this order, if applied for, be supplied to the parties subject to compliance of all requisite formalities.

(Biswajit Basu, J.)