



WEB COPY



W.P.No.6920 of 2024

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 15.03.2024

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE **G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN**

W.P.No.6920 of 2024

and

W.M.P.No.7712 of 2024

G.Arunachalam

...Petitioner

-Vs-

1.Government of Tamil Nadu

Rep. By its Additional Chief Secretary

Environment, Claimate Change and Forest (F.2) Department,
Secretariat, Fort St.George, Chennai-600 009.

2.The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,

(Head of Forest Force),

Velachery Main Road, Guindy,

Chennai-600 032.

... Respondents

Prayer : Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of Constitution of India praying for the issuance of a Writ of Certiorarified Mandamus calling for the entire records which culminated in issuing the Government Letter Ref.No.LL2/3518/2015 dated 05.09.2023 passed by 2nd respondent and quash the same and further direction to regularize the service of the petitioner in the cadre of forest watcher on par with juniors K.Subramani, Seniority No.4988 and R.Mani, Seniority No.4920 with effect from 08.03.1999 and in the light of the order passed by this Court in W.P.No.15561 of 2006 dated 10.03.2008,



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W.A.No.690 of 2008 dated 13.10.2009, W.P.No.23374 of 2008 dated 30.10.2009, W.A.No.607 of 2010 dated 29.03.2010 and proceedings of the 2nd respondent dated 07.01.2011 and Order in W.P.No.19020 of 2021 dated 09.09.2021 and extent the benefit of the order passed by the 1st respondent in G.O.(2D) No.124, Environment, Climate Change and Forests (FR.2(ii) Department Dated 17.08.2022 and order in W.P.No.1884/2024 dated 31.01.2024.

For Petitioner : Mr.S.Mani

For Respondents : Dr.T.Seenivasan
Special Government Pleader

ORDER

This writ petition has been filed calling for the entire records which culminated in issuing the Government Letter Ref.No.LL2/3518/2015 dated 05.09.2023 passed by 2nd respondent and quash the same and further direction to regularize the service of the petitioner in the cadre of forest watcher on par with juniors K.Subramani, Seniority No.4988 and R.Mani, Seniority No.4920 with effect from 08.03.1999 and in the light of the order passed by this Court in W.P.No.15561 of 2006 dated 10.03.2008, W.A.No.690 of 2008 dated 13.10.2009, W.P.No.23374 of 2008 dated 30.10.2009, W.A.No.607 of 2010 dated 29.03.2010 and proceedings of the 2nd respondent dated 07.01.2011 and Order in W.P.No.19020 of 2021 dated 09.09.2021 and extent the benefit of the order passed by the 1st respondent in G.O.(2D) No.124, Environment, Climate



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Change and Forests (FR.2(ii) Department Dated 17.08.2022 and order in

W.P.No.1884/2024 dated 31.01.2024.

2. Heard the learned counsel on either side and perused the materials available on record.

3. The case of the petitioner is that the petitioner had joined the service of the Forest Department on 01.07.1986 on daily wage basis. The name of the petitioner and his juniors were included in the State wide Seniority list drawn by the Department, by taking note of the date of joining the service on daily wage basis for bringing them into regular time scale of pay as Forest Watcher. However, without following the said seniority list in its letter and spirit, the service of many persons who are juniors to the petitioner have been regularized and they were given time scale of pay in the cadre post of Forest Watcher. His juniors were regularized from the daily wage basis to Forest Watcher on 08.03.1999, whereas even though the petitioner is senior to them, his service was regularized only on 30.04.2014. The service of the petitioner was regularized after a period of more than two decades of service. Though the petitioner is qualified with SSLC and was given regular time of appointment as



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Forest Watcher in the year 1994, the petitioner could not join the regular post of Forest Watcher, in view of the interim order granted by the Tamil Nadu Administrative Tribunal. In order to wriggle out of the situation, the Government passed an order in G.O.Ms.No.64, Environment and Forest Department dated 08.03.1999, whereby G.O.Ms.No.332, Environment and Forest Department dated 22.12.1994 was superseded or revoked. Therefore, the qualification of SSLC for appointment to the post of Plot Watcher is no longer in existence.

4. Similarly placed persons like the petitioner filed writ petitions in W.P.Nos.15561 of 2006 and 23374 of 2008 before this Court and the writ petitions were disposed of with a direction to consider their claim for appointment as Forest Watcher on par with their juniors. Aggrieved over the said order, the respondents filed writ appeals in W.A.Nos.690 of 2008 and 607 of 2010 and both the appeals were dismissed. In view of the above said orders, the petitioner also filed representation.

5. In view of the above, the impugned order cannot be sustained and is liable to be quashed. Accordingly, G.O.(2D).No.26, Environment, Climate



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Change and Forests (FR.2ii) Department, The Additional Chief Secretary to

Government, dated 13.02.2023, is hereby quashed. the respondents are directed to consider the case of the petitioner seeking regularization of his service as Forest Watcher from 08.03.1999 notionally for the purpose of getting pension by taking into account their seniority and qualification and pass orders on merits and in accordance with law, in the light of the orders passed in W.P.No.15561 of 2006 dated 10.03.2008, W.A.No.690 of 2008 dated 13.10.2009, W.P.No.23374 of 2008 dated 30.10.2009, W.A.No.607 of 2010 dated 29.03.2010 and proceedings of the second respondent dated 07.01.2011 and order in W.P.No.19020 of 2021 dated 09.09.2021, within a period of twelve weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

6. Accordingly, this writ petition is allowed. There shall be no order as to costs.

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Internet: Yes

Index : Yes/No

Speaking/Non Speaking order

Neutral Citation : Yes/No

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To
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1.The Additional Chief Secretary,
Government of Tamil Nadu
Environment, Claimate Change and Forest (F.2) Department,
Secretariat, Fort St.George, Chennai-600 009.

2.The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Forest Force),
Velachery Main Road, Guindy,
Chennai-600 032.



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G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN. J,

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