



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

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CWP-12304-2024 (O&M)
Date of decision: 23.05.2024

Sukhbir Singh and Others

....Petitioners

Versus

State of Punjab and Others

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMAN CHAUDHARY

Present : Mr. Sunny Singla, Advocate for the petitioners

AMAN CHAUDHARY. J. (ORAL)

1. The prayer in the present petition is for directing the respondents to step up the pay of the petitioners at par with their juniors, in view of the instructions dated 14.03.2017, vide which it has been decided to step up the pay of general category employees from the date when the junior employees belonging to reserve category was promoted, as well for granting arrears of pay and other consequential benefits with interest @ 12% per annum.

2. Learned counsel submits that the petitioners, working as Principals, are seeking step up equal to that of juniors appointed against the reserved category posts, which they granted to certain employees vide orders dated 23.04.2024 and 16.08.2022, Annexure P-10 and P-11 respectively. In pursuance to CWP-26308-2022, instituted at the hands of similarly situated employees, the State passed an order on 20.03.2024, whereby their claims were accepted, subject to final outcome of the seniority list and the contempt proceedings, COCP-1142-2023 filed by them was disposed of vide order of even date. A legal notice dated 06.02.2024, Annexure P-12, has been served upon the respondents, which has yet not evoked any response. He thus, at this stage, on instructions, submits that the petitioners

are sanguine of it being considered in a positive manner, in case, a direction is given to the respondents to decide the same in a time bound manner by granting them an opportunity of hearing, keeping in view the aforesaid statement.

3. Notice of motion.
4. At the asking of the Court, Mr. Arun Gupta, DAG Punjab accepts notice on behalf of the respondent-State and has no objection to the limited prayer made.
5. In view of the aforesaid and without commenting upon the merits of the case, this petition is hereby disposed of with a direction to the respondents to consider and decide the legal notice dated 06.02.2024, within a period of six months, which this Court has no reason to believe the authorities would not address in a just, fair and reasonable manner. Upon doing so, after notice and hearing offered to them, and if found entitled, grant the benefit forthwith. Needless to say, if the orders are adverse to their interest, the same shall contain reasons and the petitioner shall be free to seek legal redress.

23.05.2024

M.Kamra

(AMAN CHAUDHARY)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes / No

Whether reportable : Yes / No