

18.
(DL)

04.04.2025
Ct. No. 18
(ARPAN)

W.P.A. 6884 OF 2025

Manasi Sarkar (Majumder)
Vs.
The State of West Bengal & Ors.

Mr. Bidhan Biswas, Adv.

...for the Petitioner

Mr. Rezaul Hossain, Adv.

...for the State

Md. Sarwar Jahan, Adv.
Ms. Mousumi Mitra, Adv.
Ms. Tapati Sarkar, Adv.

...for Respondent No.2

Affidavit-of-service filed on behalf of the
petitioner is taken on record.

Petitioner has come up with the present writ
petition claiming to be treated as Samprasarak/
Samprasarika in Madhyamik Shiksha Kendra (for short,
'MSK') instead of para teacher.

It has been submitted by the learned advocate
representing the petitioner that in terms of notification
dated 18th December, 2019 passed by the School
Education Department, Government of West Bengal
petitioner exercised option to function as para teacher
not as Samprasarak/ Samprasarika. However, petitioner
has subsequently found that for a considerable period of
time scheme was not introduced and ultimately *vide*
memorandum dated 29th August, 2024 issued by the
Additional Secretary to the Government of West Bengal,
Department of School Education, benefit of EPF Scheme
is only extended from 1st April, 2024 in the event
Samprasarak/ Samprasarika of Madhyamik Shiksha

Kendras opted for engagement upto the age of 60 years. In addition thereto, petitioner has also filled up Data Capture Form (for short, 'DCF') in terms of notification dated 4th September, 2024 for getting benefit of EPF. It is submitted by the learned advocate representing the petitioner that such scheme which has been introduced *vide* memorandum dated 29th August, 2024 is subsequently found to be not beneficial to the petitioner since same has been introduced with effect from 1st April, 2024 and petitioner wants to be treated as Samprasarak/ Samprasarika of MSK without giving effect to the option and DCF which petitioner has exercised and filled in. In support of such contention, reliance is placed on an order dated 6th February, 2025 passed by a coordinate Bench on a writ petition being **WPA 30483 of 2024 (Chaina Sarkar Ghosh & Ors. vs. The State of West Bengal & Ors.)**. It is also submitted that the order dated 6th February, 2025 passed by the Co-ordinate Bench has been given effect to.

Paschim Banga Rajya Sishu Shiksha Mission (for short, 'PBRSSM') and State respondents are represented by learned advocates.

It has been submitted specifically on behalf of PBRSSM that the situation which was prevailing prior to issuance of memorandum dated 29th August, 2024 is

altered after 29th August, 2024. Therefore, at present petitioner has no other choice but to come under the said memorandum dated 29th August, 2024 based on option petitioner has exercised and filled in DCF. In the same breath it has also been submitted on behalf of PBRSSM that since the benefit of EPF is extended to the Samprasaraks/ Samprasarikas with effect from 1st April, 2024, it may not be beneficial to Samprasaraks/ Samprasarikas.

Having considered the respective submissions made on behalf of the parties, this Court finds that there is memorandum dated 29th August, 2024 issued by the Additional Secretary to the Government of West Bengal deciding to extend benefit of EPF to Samprasaraks/ Samprasarikas of MSKs with effect from 1st April, 2024 which appears to be not beneficial to the petitioner as a result whereof petitioner is praying before this Court for a direction to be treated as Samprasarak/ Samprasarika not as para teacher by not giving effect to the option and DCF which petitioner has exercised and filled in. Similar benefit has been extended by a Co-ordinate Bench by passing order dated 6th February, 2025 on a writ petition being WPA 30483 of 2024 in the case of **Chaina Sarkar Ghosh** (Supra) since as per norms unless EPF benefit is not availed for a period of ten years or more a para teacher/ Samprasarak is not entitled to get pensionary benefits.

Therefore, this Court finds it apt to grant identical relief to the petitioner thereby treating the petitioner as Samprasarak/ Samprasarika by not giving credence to the option exercised by the petitioner and filled in DCF. Mere issuance of memorandum dated 29th August, 2024 and subsequent steps taken by the petitioner in submitting DCF should not act as fetter so far as present petitioner is concerned to be treated as Samprasarak/ Samprasarika without giving credence to the option and filled in DCF which was submitted by the petitioner.

In view of aforesaid discussions the writ petition stands allowed directing the concerned State authorities including PBRSSM authority to treat the petitioner as Samprasarak/ Samprasarika and the option as well as filled in DCF which petitioner has exercised and submitted shall be treated as cancelled.

It is also clarified that in future petitioner cannot claim the benefits as para teacher.

Accordingly, the writ petition stands disposed of.

There shall be no order as to costs.

Urgent photostat certified copy of the order, if applied for, be given to the parties, upon usual undertakings.

(Saugata Bhattacharyya, J.)