

31.07.2025
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FMA 995 of 2025
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IA No.: CAN 1 of 2025 [Stay]
Rupak Dhua
- Versus -
The State of West Bengal & Others

Mr. Shuvro Prokash Lahiri,
Mr. Rajesh Naskar,
Mr. Ankan Mondal
... for the Appellant.

Mr. Nilotpal Chatterjee,
Mr. Kaustav Bhattacharya
... for the State/Respondents.

Mr. Sunit Kr. Roy
... for the Central School
Service Commission.

Mr. Kalyan Kr. Panda
... for the School Authorities/
Respondent nos.7 & 8.

Affidavit-of-service, as filed, be kept on record.

The present appeal has been preferred challenging an order dated 27th March, 2025 passed by the learned single Judge in the writ petition, being WPA 3124 of 2025.

Records reveal that the appellant's claim for transfer was not considered since he was the single Assistant Teacher of Mathematics under Science Group in Pundag High School (H.S.) (hereinafter referred to as the said school). Aggrieved thereby, the appellant preferred the writ petition. Upon contested

hearing, the said writ petition was disposed of by the order impugned observing *inter alia* as follows:

‘Having considered the submissions made on behalf of the parties writ petition stands disposed of directing the authority of Pundag High School (HS) Purulia being respondent nos. 7 and 8 to forward the transfer application of the petitioner to the District Inspector of Schools (SE) Purulia being respondent no. 5 by 7 (seven) days from the date of communication of this order. On receipt of transfer application respondent no. 5 shall make an endeavour to find out willing teacher of neighbouring school who can man the post of the petitioner temporarily till regular incumbent joins the post on transfer of the petitioner. If willing teacher is found and respondent no. 5 finds it a “fit case” in terms of the notification dated 3rd January, 2022 necessary steps shall be taken by the respondent authorities for transferring the petitioner from present school to another school’.

Mr. Lahiri, learned advocate appearing for the appellant submits that the notification dated 3rd January, 2022 casts a duty upon the District Inspector of Schools (SE), Purulia [hereinafter referred to as the DI(SE)] to take urgent step in a time-bound manner to search for a teacher on the same subject from nearby and make local arrangement so that the

teacher of the other school attends the school wherefrom the teacher has applied for transfer on days of the week on a temporary basis till such time a permanent subject teacher joins.

He argues that it is a fundamental principle that a statutory authority can act only in the manner he is permitted by the statutes. There is no provision in the notification dated 3rd January, 2022 to invite any option or choice of any other teacher to volunteer in rendering service to a school from which the appellant seeks transfer. As such, the learned single Judge erred in law in incorporating a rider to the effect that *'If willing teacher is found and respondent no. 5 finds it a "fit case" in terms of the notification dated 3rd January, 2022 necessary steps shall be taken by the respondent authorities for transferring the petitioner from present school to another school'*. Such argument, as urged, was glossed over by the learned single Judge and no finding was returned on the same. Reliance has been placed upon a judgment of a co-ordinate Bench of this Court delivered in the case of *Gokul Chandra Mallick Vs. The State of West Bengal & Others* [MAT 1218 of 2024].

Mr. Chatterjee, learned advocate appearing for the State/respondents submits that the learned single Judge has directed consideration of the

appellant's claim in the light of the notification dated 3rd January, 2022 and there is no infirmity in the order impugned.

Mr. Roy, learned advocate appearing for the Commission submits that no allegation has been levelled against the Commission in the writ petition.

Mr. Panda, learned advocate appearing for the school authorities submits that complying with the order impugned, the teacher-in-charge of the said school by a memo dated 21st April, 2025 has already forwarded the transfer application of the appellant to the DI(SE). A copy of the said memo, as produced, be kept on record.

We have heard the learned advocates appearing for the respective parties and considered the materials on record.

The West Bengal School Service Commission (General Transfer, Transfer on Special Grounds and Reallocation) Rules, 2015 [hereinafter referred to as the 2015 Rules] were amended from time to time and the last amendment was effected *vide* memo dated 3rd January, 2022. The operative part of the said memo runs as follows:

'In that event a single subject teacher makes application for transfer, the SMC will not reject the application and inform the DI (SE) about such

application. The DI (SE) will immediately discuss the matter with the CSE in the DI (SE) will take urgent step in time bound manner to search for a teacher on the same subject from nearby and make local arrangement so that the teacher of the other school attends the school wherefrom the teachers has applied for transfer on days of the week on a temporary basis till such time a permanent teachers subject joins. The DI (SE) will inform such arrangement to the CSE who shall inform the matter to the Chairman of WBCSSC, President of WBBSE and School Education Department, CSE will ensure such arrangement in 7 days immediately. The DI(SE) will communicate such arrangement to the school concerned and the HOI in question shall forward the application of the teacher to the DI(SE) will then forward the case to the WBCSSC for consideration, WBCSSC will suitably recommend the case for transfer to the WBBSE and the Board will issue transfer order accordingly.

This remains in force until further order.'

In the said notification there is no rider that the DI(SE) has to make any endeavour to find out any willing teacher of neighbouring school, who can man the post of the appellant temporarily till the regular incumbent joins the post. The term '*willing*' does not feature in the said notification.

The competent authority took a conscious decision towards amendment of the 2015 Rules by the said notification dated 3rd January, 2022 without including any rider to the effect that a single teacher can be transferred only after a willing candidate to man his/her post is found out by the DI(SE). On the contrary, the notification states that it would be an obligation on the part of the DI(SE) to take urgent steps in a time-bound manner to search for a teacher on the same subject from nearby schools and make local arrangement so that the teacher of the other school attends the school wherefrom the single teacher concerned has applied for transfer. The appellant's claim for transfer cannot be kept in abeyance till a willing teacher is found.

In view thereof, the order impugned in the present appeal is modified to the effect that the DI(SE) shall act in strict consonance with the provisions of the said notification dated 3rd January, 2022 and the observations made in this order and take expeditious steps for filling up the resultant vacancy that may arise after the appellant is transferred. The entire exercise shall be completed by the DI(SE) being the respondent no.6 herein preferably within a period of three months from the date of communication of this order.

With the above observations and directions, the appeal and the connected application are disposed of.

There shall, however, be no order as to costs.

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

(Reetobroto Kumar Mitra, J.) (Tapabrata Chakraborty, J.)