



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
BENCH AT AURANGABAD**

948 WRIT PETITION NO. 7488 OF 2025

NANABHAU JIBHAU BHADANE

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...

AND

949 WRIT PETITION NO. 7489 OF 2025

VASANT SUKALAL SONAWANE AND OTHERS

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...

AND

951 WRIT PETITION NO. 7515 OF 2025

MADHUKAR VISHWASRAO BAGUL AND OTHERS

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...

AND

954 WRIT PETITION NO. 7581 OF 2025

KASHINATH TRAMBAK CHAUDHARI

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA AND OTHERS

...

AND

955 WRIT PETITION NO. 7582 OF 2025

BHARAT VISHNU PATIK DIED THR LRS JIJABAI BHARAT
PATIL

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA AND OTHERS

...

AND

956 WRIT PETITION NO. 7584 OF 2025

SUNIL JAGANTH SANER AND OTHERS
VERSUS
THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA AND OTHERS

...
AND

957 WRIT PETITION NO. 7586 OF 2025

AJAY VISHWANATH AMRUTKAR AND OTHERS
VERSUS
THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA AND OTHERS

...
AND

969 WRIT PETITION NO. 2503 OF 2025

SURESH JAGANNATH SONAR
VERSUS
THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...
AND

970 WRIT PETITION NO. 2504 OF 2025

DAMAYANTI DHARMA VALVI
VERSUS
THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...
AND

971 WRIT PETITION NO. 2515 OF 2025

VASANT VAMAN WAGH
VERSUS
THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...
AND

972 WRIT PETITION NO. 2530 OF 2025

DADAJI BHATU GHARATE AND OTHERS
VERSUS
THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...
AND

973 WRIT PETITION NO. 2564 OF 2025

NARAYAN BHATA SAWALE AND OTHERS
VERSUS
THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...
AND

974 WRIT PETITION NO. 2565 OF 2025

BABAN GONDIRAM BAGUL
VERSUS
THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...
AND

975 WRIT PETITION NO. 2576 OF 2025

DINESH NAGO DHANRAJ AND OTHERS
VERSUS
THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...
AND

976 WRIT PETITION NO. 2580 OF 2025

GANESH GORAKH MAHAJAN AND OTHERS
VERSUS
THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...
AND

977 WRIT PETITION NO. 2581 OF 2025

CHANDRASHEKHAR SUBHASH LOKHANDE AND
OTHERS
VERSUS
THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...
AND

978 WRIT PETITION NO. 2583 OF 2025

AJAY RAJESH MARATHE AND OTHERS

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...

AND

979 WRIT PETITION NO. 2584 OF 2025

BHATU RAJESING RAJPUT AND OTHERS

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...

AND

980 WRIT PETITION NO. 2588 OF 2025

SHAKIR AHMED ABDUL QADIR SHAIKH

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...

AND

981 WRIT PETITION NO. 2594 OF 2025

TUKARAM GANGARAM PATIL AND OTHERS

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...

AND

982 WRIT PETITION NO. 2608 OF 2025

NILESH JAMNADAS SOMANI AND OTHERS

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH IT
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...

AND

983 WRIT PETITION NO. 2614 OF 2025

POURNIMA RAMAN SONWANE AND OTHERS

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...

AND

984 WRIT PETITION NO. 2623 OF 2025

GULABRAO ZIPARU BACCHAV AND OTHERS

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...

AND

985 WRIT PETITION NO. 2645 OF 2025

HEMANT BHATU AKLADE

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...

AND

986 WRIT PETITION NO. 2678 OF 2025

PRALHAD VAMAN WAGH AND OTHERS

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...

AND

987 WRIT PETITION NO. 2685 OF 2025

RAJENDRA BHATU SONAWANE

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...

AND

988 WRIT PETITION NO. 2693 OF 2025

DATTU SANTOSH PATIL AND OTHERS

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...
AND

WRIT PETITION NO. 7648 OF 2025

(Not on the Board. Mentioned. Taken on the Board.)

RAVINDRA DHONDU KAKUSTE AND OTHERS

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...
AND

WRIT PETITION NO. 7649 OF 2025

(Not on the Board. Mentioned. Taken on the Board.)

VAIBHAV RAMESH MOHANE AND OTHERS

VERSUS

THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA THROUGH ITS
SECRETARY AND OTHERS

...
Ms.Megha Y. Mali, Advocate for the Petitioners.

Shri M.M. Nerlikar, AGP for the Respondents/ State Authorities in the Writ Petitions at Sr.Nos.948, 955, 957, 969, 971, 973, 975, 977, 978, 980, 981, 983 and in Writ Petition Nos.7648/2025 and 7649/2025.

Shri V.K. Kagne, AGP for the Respondents/ State Authorities in the Writ Petition at Sr.No.949.

Ms. Saie S. Joshi, AGP for the Respondents/ State Authorities in the Writ Petition at Sr.No.951.

Shri S.V. Hange, AGP for the Respondents/ State Authorities in the Writ Petition at Sr.No.954.

Shri S.D. Ghayal, AGP for the Respondents/ State Authorities in the Writ Petitions at Sr.Nos.956, 970, 972, 974, 976, 979, 982, 984 and 987.

Shri S.P. Sonpawale, AGP for the Respondents/ State Authorities in the Writ Petitions at Sr.Nos.985, 986 and 988.

...

**CORAM : RAVINDRA V. GHUGE
&
Y. G. KHOBRAGADE, JJ.**

DATE :- 25th June, 2025

Per Court :-

1. Since the issue involved in Writ Petition Nos.7648/2025 and 7649/2025 is identical, by consent of the parties, these petitions are taken on the Board.

2. These identically placed Petitioners have put forth identical prayer clauses. For ready reference, prayer clauses (B) and (C) in Writ Petition No.7488/2025, read as under:-

“B) *The resp. authority may kindly be direct to give/ release the benefits of Ekstar (one step pay scale) to the petitioner from the initial date of appointment to till his retirement from service as per G. R. dated 06.08.2002 as he worked in Tribal/PESA/difficult area though he granted the benefits of 12 years continues service & direct the respondents to pay the salary of the petitioner as per the Ekstar (one step pay scale) till the petitioner worked in Tribal/PESA/difficult area. By issuing writ of Mandamus or any other appropriate writ, order or direction as the case may be.*

C) *The Respondent authority may kindly be direct to pay arrears of salaries, revise the pension of the petitioner including the benefits of one step pay scale i.e. Ekstar from the initial date of appointment as he was worked in Tribal Area*

from his appointment to till his retirement as per Government Resolution dated 06.08.2002 issued by the Resp. No. 1 & further directs not to revoke/recover the benefits of Ekstar (one step pay scale) as per Government Resolution dated 06.08.2002 though petitioner granted/entitled for time bound promotion.”

3. We have considered the submissions of the learned Advocates for the respective sides and we have perused the series of orders passed by this Court in favour of similarly situated Petitioners, which have been annexed to the Petitions.

4. In view of the above, we do not find any such circumstances, which would convince us to take a different view.

5. The learned Advocates representing the respective parties in those cases (orders which have been annexed to the Petitions), have clearly stated that the order passed by this Court at the Principal Seat, in Writ Petition No. 8824 of 2021 (***Hiralal Jagannath Bawa and others vs. The State of Maharashtra and others***), dated 21.12.2021, is applicable to all such cases.

6. In view of the above, **these Writ Petitions are allowed** in the following terms:-

- i. The Respondent- Zilla Parishad shall scrutinize the records of these Petitioners and the places at which they are deployed for performing their duties, within a period of 30 days from today, considering the Government Resolution dated 29.02.2024.
- ii. The cases which have no legal impediment after verification, shall be cleared by the Respondent- Zilla Parishad and the salary benefits, to which the Petitioners are entitled to, in the light of the one- step pay-scale made available to the employees working in the Tribal and PESA areas, shall be paid to them along with arrears as well as their current salary, within a period of 30 days, thereafter.
- iii. After scrutiny, if the Petitioners, on the basis of their record, are found to be ineligible, the Respondent- Zilla Parishad would issue notice to the Petitioners, so as to enable them to appear before the said authority and address it.
- iv. After such hearing, which shall be completed within 120 days, the Respondent- Zilla Parishad shall pass an appropriate order and grant benefits of one-step pay-scale to those candidates, who are found to be eligible.

v. The Petitioners, who may suffer an adverse order after the above stated exercise is completed, shall be at liberty to avail of a statutory remedy, as is permissible in law and in the light of the Government Resolution dated 29.02.2024 issued by the General Administration Department.

kps

(Y. G. KHOBRADE, J.)

(RAVINDRA V. GHUGE, J.)