



W.P.No.43464 of 2025

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 11.11.2025

CORAM:

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

W.P.No.43464 of 2025

1. K.Madhesh
2. P.Krishnan
3. A.Kalirathinam
4. K.M.Gopal
5. K.Rajendiran
6. A.Annamalai

... Petitioners

-Vs-

1. State of Tamil Nadu,
Represented By Its Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
Environment Climate Change and Forest Department,
Fort St. George, Secretariat,
Chennai-600 009.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Head of Forest Force, Velachery Main Road,
Guindy, Chennai-600 032.
3. The District Forest Officer,
Dharmapuri Forest Division, Dharmapuri -5,
Dharmapuri District.
4. The Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Modern Nursery Forest Division,
Dharmapuri,
Dharmapuri District.



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5. The Divisional Forest Officer,
Dharmapuri Social Forestry and Extension Division,
Dharmapuri, Dharmapuri District.

6. The District Forest Officer /Wild Life Warden,
Hosur Forest Division, Hosur,
Krishnagiri District.

7. The Accountant General of Tamil Nadu,
Office of The Accountant General,
Anna Salai, Teynampet,
Chennai-18.

... Respondents

Prayer : Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of Constitution of India praying for the issuance of a Writ of Mandamus, directing the respondents 1 to 6 regularize the service of petitioners as Forest Watchers from the date on which completing ten years of service as plot watchers on daily wage basis for the purpose of getting pension in the light of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgment reported in (2019) 10 SCC 516 and confer all consequential Pensionary benefits from the date of their retirement by sending the proposal to the 7th Respondent for granting pension with all consequential benefits.

For Petitioners	: Mr.M.R.Jothimanian
For R1 to R6	: Mr.C.Selvaraj Additional Government Pleader
For R7	: Mr.P.Mano Rajan Standing Counsel

ORDER

This Writ Petition has been filed for direction directing the respondents 1 to 6 to regularize the service of petitioners as Forest Watchers from the date on which completing ten years of service as plot watchers on daily wage basis for the purpose of getting pension in the light of the Hon'ble Supreme Court



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Judgment reported in (2019) 10 SCC 516 and confer all consequential Pensionary benefits from the date of their retirement by sending the proposal to the 7th Respondent for granting pension with all consequential benefits.

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

3. This issue has been already dealt with by this Court in W.P.No.19023 of 2021 vide order dated 09.09.2021. The relevant portion of the said order reads as under:-

2. The petitioners were engaged as Plot Watchers between 1979 and 1986 in the Forest Department under the Tamil Nadu Forest Subordinate Service Rules. Thereafter their services were regularized on 07.08.2009 in the supernumerary post. They have also retired from service between 2017 and 2021 as detailed below:-

S No	Name of the petitioner	Date of Joining as Plot Watcher	Seniority Number in the Seniority List of 1999	Date of Regularisation as Plot Watcher (Supernumerary)	Date of Retirement
1	M.Sellappa	01.04.1986	4681	07.08.2009	31.01.2021
2	K.Deivasigamani	16.11.1984	3809	07.08.2009	31.05.2019
3	M.Settu	08.01.1979	473	07.08.2009	31.10.2018
4	V.Dhanapal	01.04.1984	3421	07.08.2009	28.09.2017



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3. *At the time of appointment of the petitioners, there were no discriminations for the persons like the petitioners to be promoted as Forest Watchers. It was sufficient that if they have able to read and write in the vernacular language. However, this was altered by a Government Order in G.O.Ms.No.332, Environment and Forest Department dated 22.12.1994. The aforesaid Government Order was superseded by G.O.Ms.No.64, Environment and Forest Department dated 08.03.1999 and the position which stood prior to issue G.O.Ms.No.332, Environment and Forest Department dated 22.12.1994 was reverted. It is in this background, the petitioners services were regularized as Plot Watchers in the year 2009 with the issuance of Government Order in G.O.Ms.No.95, Environment and Forest Department dated 07.08.2009.*

4. *In this writ petition, the petitioners are seeking for a Mandamus, to direct the respondents to regularize their services from the date of initial appointment as Plot Watchers on the basis of daily wages for the purpose of getting pension in the light of the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Prem Singh Vs State of Uttar Pradesh and others, passed in C.A.No.6798 of 2019 dated 02.09.2019.*

5. *The learned counsel for the petitioners has drawn attention to Paragraphs 35 and 36 of the aforesaid decision, which reads as under:-*



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of pension shall be confined to three years only before the date of the order. Let the admissible benefits be paid accordingly within three months. Resultantly, the appeals filed by the employees are allowed and filed by the State are dismissed.”

6. The Hon'ble Supreme Court there was concerned Rule 3(8) of the Uttar Pradesh Retirement Benefit Rules, 1961, which reads as under:-

“Rule 3. In these rules, unless is anything repugnant in the subject or context- (1)

(2)

(8) “Qualifying service” means service which qualifies for pension in accordance with the provisions of Article 368 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Provided that continuous temporary or officiating service under the Government of Uttar Pradesh followed without interruption by confirmation in the same or any other post except-

(i) periods of temporary or officiating service in a nonpensionable establishment.

(ii) periods of service in a work-charged establishment and

(iii) periods of service in a post paid from contingencies shall also count as qualifying service.

Note:- If service rendered in a nonpensionable establishment work-charged establishment or in a post paid from contingencies falls between two periods of temporary service in a pensionable establishment or between a period of temporary service and permanent service in a pensionable establishment, it



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will not constitute an interruption of service.”

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7. The learned counsel for the petitioners submits that a similar provision in G.O.Ms.No.131, Personnel and Administrative Reforms (F) Department dated 28.11.2020 has been issued. In this connection, the learned counsel for the petitioners has referred to Paragraphs 4 to 6 of the aforesaid Government Order which reads as under:-

“4. In the above said “Umadevi case”, among other things, the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court of India, emphasized that if rules have been made under Article-309 of the Constitution, then the Government can make appointments only in accordance with the rules. If sanctioned posts are vacant, the State will take immediate steps for filling those posts, by a regular process of selection. The State Government and their instrumentalities should take steps to regularize, as a onetime measure, the services of such irregularly appointed, who have worked for ten years or more in duly sanctioned posts, but not under cover of orders of the courts or of Tribunals, and should further ensure that regular recruitments are undertaken to fill those vacant sanctioned posts that required to be filled up, in cases, where temporary employees or daily wages are being now employed. If sanctioned posts are vacant, the State will take immediate steps for filling those posts, by a regular process of selection. There should be no further bypassing of the Constitutional requirement, regularizing or making permanent, those not duly appointed as per the Constitutional scheme.



5. *In view of the above, it is hereby reiterated that in case of posts governed by Rules, in all the Services, including Tamil Nadu Basic Service, appointment shall be made only with reference to the existing rules. While selecting candidates for appointment, the claim of the contesting candidates shall be weighed with reference to the rules, in force, as emphasized in the “Umadevi Case” [State of Karnataka Vs. Umadevi (2006)4 SCC 1].*

6. *All the appointing authorities should adhere to the above instructions scrupulously, failing which, it will be viewed seriously and necessary disciplinary action will be initiated as per rules, against the persons responsible for the said lapses. All Heads of Departments are directed to ensure that the above said instructions are followed, without fail.”*

8. *If the above view of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in State of Karnataka Vs. Umadevi (2006)4 SCC 1 has been followed by the Government of Tamil Nadu in G.O.Ms.No.131, Personnel and Administrative Reforms (F) Department dated 28.11.2020, the petitioners services was to be regularized at the expiry of ten years on the date of which they were originally appointed.*

9. *Considering the fact that they were appointed ten years earlier, they are also entitled to pension and the other attendant benefits. Further, Government Order in G.O.Ms.No.131, Personnel and Administrative Reforms (F) Department dated 28.11.2020 is binding on the respondents. Merely because the petitioners have attained the age of superannuation prior to the aforesaid date would not mean that the petitioners should not be*



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given the benefit for the services rendered by them with the respondents Forest Department. Under these circumstances, this Writ Petition deserves to be allowed and is accordingly allowed. Miscellaneous Petition is closed.

4. Since the issue is squarely covered in the above order of this Court, this writ petition is disposed of with a consequential relief to the petitioners. No costs.

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(1/4)

Internet: Yes
Index : Yes/No
Neutral Citation: Yes/No
Speaking/Non Speaking order
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To

1. The Additional Chief Secretary to Government,
State of Tamil Nadu,
Environment Climate Change and Forest Department,
Fort St. George, Secretariat,
Chennai-600 009.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Head of Forest Force, Velachery Main Road,
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