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W.P.No.29813 of 2018

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 26.03.2025

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THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE **M.DHANDAPANI**

W.P.No.29813 of 2018

and

W.M.P.No.34791 of 2018

The Management,
Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Salem) Limited,
Bharathipuram,
Salem Main Road,
Dharmapuri-5.

...Petitioner

Vs.

1.P.Balaji

2.The Special Deputy Commissioner of Labour,
Chennai.

... Respondents

PRAYER: Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to issue a Writ of Certiorari, to call for the records relating to the order dated 13.04.2018 passed in A.P.No.47 of 2014 by the second respondent, namely, the Special Deputy Commissioner of Labour, Chennai, and quash the same.



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For Petitioner : Mr.M.Aswin

For Respondents : No appearance for R1
Mr.K.Surendran,
Additional Government Pleader for R2

ORDER

This writ petition has been filed seeking quashment of the order dated 13.04.2018 made in A.P.No.47 of 2014 by the second respondent.

2. The case of the petitioner is that the first respondent was working as Conductor with the petitioner Corporation and while checking, it was found that the first respondent was having excess cash in his bag and he failed to issue ticket after receiving the money. Therefore, a charge memo was issued to the first respondent and thereafter, domestic enquiry was conducted and the Enquiry officer has drawn a proven minute, based on which, the first respondent was dismissed from service on 20.01.2014. Thereafter, the petitioner Management filed A.P.No.47 of 2014 before the Labour Court on 28.01.2014 and it was rejected vide order dated 13.04.2018. Challenging the same, the petitioner has filed this Writ petition.



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3. Learned counsel for the petitioner Corporation further submitted

that, the second respondent had rejected the approval petition on the ground that there was a delay of 8 days, which is not sustainable, since mere delay of 8 days in filing the approval petition will not vitiate the entire proceedings, While so, rejecting the approval petition filed by the petitioner on the ground that, the same was not filed simultaneously before the authority is not sustainable, as the word simultaneous mentioned is not explained either in the Act or in the Rules. Hence, the order of the second respondent is liable to be set aside and accordingly, prayed for appropriate orders.

4. Per contra, the learned Additional Government Pleader appearing on behalf of the second respondent submitted that, though the first respondent was dismissed from service on 20.01.2014, however, the petitioner Corporation had filed the approval petition only on 28.01.2014 with a delay of 8 days, which is an incurable defect as per the decision of the Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court in the case of ***The Management, Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Salem) Limited Vs. C.Iyandhurai and anr.*** (W.A. No.1555 of 2022) dated 01.08.2022. For

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better appreciation, the relevant portion of the said order is extracted

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“The Writ Appeal has been filed against the order passed by the learned Single Judge refusing to interfere with the order passed by the second respondent-Authority in dismissing the appellant-Management's approval petition under Section 33(2)(b) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The rejection of the approval petition was on the ground that there was shortfall in payment of one month salary to the first respondent-employee and there was eight days delay in filing the approval petition. The learned Single Judge, while advertng to Section 33(2)(b) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, read with Rule 64(2) of the Industrial Disputes Rules, 1958, observed that an application seeking approval of dismissal of an employee needs to be served with the order of punishment and simultaneously, approval application has to be filed before the Authority, and otherwise, the approval petition cannot be entertained and hence, the learned Single Judge observed that the second respondent-authority rightly rejected the approval petition. In view of the above, the learned Single Judge, while not interfering with the order passed by the second respondent-authority in dismissing the approval petition, made it clear that the first respondent-employee would be entitled to all monetary benefits due to him



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and the appellant-Management was expected to extend the same and the period for compliance was also given by the learned Single Judge. Looking into the order passed by the learned Single Judge, we find no ground made out to entertain the Writ Appeal, which is accordingly dismissed. There shall be no order as to costs. Consequently, the miscellaneous petition is closed.”

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

6. The ingredients which should be satisfied by the employer while filing the approval petition have been spelt out in the decision of the Apex Court in ***Lalla Ram Vs. D.C.M. Chemical Works Ltd. and Ors.***, reported in ***AIR 1978 SC 1004***, wherein the Supreme Court held thus :-

"(i) whether a proper domestic enquiry in accordance with the relevant rules/Standing Orders and principles of natural justice has been held;

(ii) whether a prima facie case for dismissal based on legal evidence adduced before the domestic tribunal is made out;

(iii) whether the employer had come to a bona fide



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conclusion that the employee was guilty and the dismissal did not amount to unfair labour practice and was not intended to victimise the employee;

(iv) whether the employer has paid or offered to pay Wages for one month to the employee; and

(v) whether the employer has simultaneously or within such reasonably short time as to form part of the same transaction applied to the authority before which the main industrial dispute is pending for approval of the action taken by him."

7. From the materials available on record, it is evident that the approval petition was not filed simultaneously when the order of dismissal had come to be passed. It is even the admitted case of the petitioner that there is a delay of 8 days. It is the consistent view of the Courts that there should be proper explanation for the delay and in the absence of the same, even a single day's delay is fatal. Though in *Lalla Ram's* case, it has been held that if there is any delay in filing the petition, the reasonableness should be explained. However, in the case on hand, there is no explanation for the delay, much less any explanation, which is reasonable and in such a circumstance, the requirement of Section 33(2)(b) of the Industrial Disputes



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Act has not been fulfilled and, therefore, the same does not merit acceptance. Appreciating the materials in proper perspective, the Labour Court has rejected the approval petition, which cannot be said to be erroneous. Further, the decision of the Division Bench of this Court in **C.Iyandhurai** case (*supra*) is also in line with the decision of this Court.

8. For the reasons aforesaid, this Writ Petition stands dismissed. No costs. Consequently, the connected miscellaneous petition is closed.

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ssb

NCC : Yes / No
Speaking Order : Yes / No
Index : Yes / No

To

The Special Joint Commissioner of Labour,
DMS Campus,
Chennai.

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M.DHANDAPANI, J.

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