



114                    **IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA  
AT CHANDIGARH**

CM-18400-CWP-2025 in/and  
CWP No.5011 of 2023 (O&M)  
Date of Decision: 09.12.2025

SUCHETNA DHILLON AND ORS

.....Petitioners

Versus

STATE OF PUNJAB AND ORS

.....Respondents

**CORAM : HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL**  
**HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DEEPAK MANCHANDA**

Present:        Mr. Sardavinder Goyal, Advocate,  
                      for the petitioners. (through V.C.)

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**ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL, J. (Oral)**

**CM-18400-CWP-2025**

This is an application for disposal of the main petition in terms of clause 4.6 of the order dated 14.05.2024 passed by the official respondents.

Issue notice in the application.

Ms. Arundhati Kulshreshtha, AAG, Punjab, accepts notice on behalf of the respondent-State.

With the consent of learned counsel for both the parties, the main petition is preponed and taken up for hearing today itself.

The application stands disposed of.

**Main Case**

Learned counsel for the petitioners submits that the petitioners are Teachers/Headmasters/Principals, who have been appointed under the Rashtriya Mahdhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) Scheme. They are seeking a direction to the respondents to absorb them in the department as

per their seniority in accordance with the service rules applicable to them, instead of the date of them exercising their option to be part of the government department. He further submits that the respondents while considering the cases of similarly situated Masters/Lecturers have by order dated 14.05.2024 directed that the Masters/Lecturers, therein, shall be absorbed as per their seniority which shall be counted as per the service rules applicable to them. He has referred to clause 4.6, which is reproduced hereinbelow:

***“4.6 Absorption of Contractual Employees of SSA/RMSA/Adarsh School.***

*A number of persons, who were earlier appointed under SSA/RMSA/Adarsh Schools etc. and who have been absorbed in the Department vide notification dated 09.10.2018 w.e.f. 01.04.2018. Vide notification dated 09.10.2018 all the absorbed employees' inter-se seniority was exercised as per their online options through portal. Thus the criteria of seniority on the basis of click did not fit under the settled rules of seniority, because according to the option, a junior employee appointed later would be elevated to a higher level. Thus, seniority of these employees will be fixed as per inter-se seniority in view of the length of services and merit as assessed in the previous organization.”*

2. Learned State counsel upon instructions from Dr. Amandeep Kaur, Assistant Director Education, submits that the case of the petitioners for merger/absorption with the State Government as per their seniority in accordance with the service rules, is under consideration with the State Government.
3. At this juncture, learned counsel for the petitioners submits that this petition may be disposed of with a direction to the respondents to take a decision in a time bound manner as the promotions of the petitioners have been held up for quite some time.
4. After hearing learned counsel for the parties, we deem it appropriate to dispose of this petition with a direction to the respondents to

take a decision for merger/absorption of the petitioners in terms of their seniority in view of order dated 14.05.2024 passed by the respondents in the case of Master/Lecturers. A speaking order would be passed in accordance with law within a period of two months from now.

(ANUPINDER SINGH GREWAL)  
JUDGE

(DEEPAK MANCHANDA)  
JUDGE

09.12.2025  
*sandeep*

|                             |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Whether Speaking/Reasoned : | Yes/No |
| Whether Reportable :        | Yes/No |