APHC010114732023

IN THE HIGH COURT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
AT AMARAVATI **[3573]**
(Special Original Jurisdiction)

FRIDAY, THE 30th DAY OF OCTOBER 2026

PRESENT

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE BALAJI MEDAMALLI

WRIT PETITION NO: 5759/2023

Between:

1. AVALA PRASANTHI, W/O. RAJESH, FEMALE, AGED ABOUT 40 YEARS, OCC. MULTI-PURPOSE EXTENSION OFFICER (MPEO) R/O. APPLE BUILDING, HARIJANAWADA, NEAR WATER TANK, SULLURUPETA (M), SPSR NELLORE DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH - 524 121

...PETITIONER

AND

1. THE STATE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, REP BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION DEPARTMENT A.P. SECRETARIAT BUILDINGS, VELAGAPUDI, AMARAVATI
2. THE COMMISSIONER, AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT, OLD MARKET YARD CHUTTUGUNTA, GUNTUR, GUNTUR DISTRICT
3. THE DISTRICT SELECTION COMMITTEE, SPSR NELLORE REP BY ITS CHAIRMAN CUM DISTRICT COLLECTOR
4. THE JOINT DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, SPSR NELLORE, SPSR NELLORE DISTRICT CAUSE TITLE IN RESPECT OF RESPONDENT NOS.3 AND 4 IS AMENDED AS PER C.O. DT 10.08.2026, PASSED IN IA NO.1/2026 IN WP NO.5759/2023

...RESPONDENT(S):

Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed therewith, the High Court may be pleased to issue an appropriate writ, order or direction more particularly one in the nature of a WRIT OF MANDAMUS declaring the action of the respondents 2 to 4, in not issuing appointment and posting orders despite of successful completion of examination and certificate verification in pursuance of Recruitment Notification No.01/2019, dated 26.07.2019, for the post of Village Agriculture Assistant (Grade-II), basing on the merit obtained by the

petitioners, though issued appointment and Posting orders to other lesser meritorious candidates, as bad, illegal, arbitrary, discriminatory and violative of Articles 14, 15 and 16 of Constitution of India and consequentially direct the respondents 2 to 4 to issue appointment and posting orders in favour of the petitioner with all consequential benefits including Seniority as per merit and as per the Orders of this Honourable High Court in W.P. No. 18108/2019 and to pass such

IA NO: 1 OF 2023

Petition under Section 151 CPC praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased may be pleased to direct the Respondents to keep a post of Village Agriculture Assistant (VAA)(Grade-II) vacant and not to fill up 1 (one) posts pending disposal of the writ petition in the lines of Order dt. 08.12.2022 of this Hon'ble Court in W.P. 39757 of 2022 and pass such

IA NO: 1 OF 2026

Petition under Section 151 CPC praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased May be pleased to allow the present application and permit the Petitioner to amend in the cause title 3 and 4 respondents districts names instead of Chittoor as amend as SPSR Nellore, as amended the cause title of writ petition, and pass

IA NO: 2 OF 2026

Petition under Section 151 CPC praying that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed in support of the petition, the High Court may be pleased may be pleased to grant leave for filing of the Counter Affidavit in WP.No.5759 of 2023 and to pass

Counsel for the Petitioner:

1. SURESH KUMAR ROUTHU

Counsel for the Respondent(S):

1. GP for Village and Ward Secretariats

The Court made the following:

THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE BALAJI MEDAMALLI

ORDER:

The Writ Petition is filed for the following relief:

> *"to issue an appropriate writ, order or direction more particularly one in the nature of a WRIT OF MANDAMUS declaring the action of the respondents 2 to 4, in not issuing appointment and posting orders despite of successful completion of examination and certificate verification in pursuance of Recruitment Notification No.01/2019, dated 26.07.2019, for the post of Village Agriculture Assistant (Grade-II), basing on the merit obtained by the petitioners, though issued appointment and Posting orders to other lesser meritorious candidates, as bad, illegal, arbitrary, discriminatory and violative of Articles 14, 15 and 16 of Constitution of India and consequentially direct the respondents 2 to 4 to issue appointment and posting orders in favour of the petitioner with all consequential benefits including Seniority as per merit and as per the Orders of this Honourable High Court in W.P. No. 18108/2019 and to pass such…"*

2. Heard Sri Suresh Kumar Routhu, learned counsel for the petitioner and Sri K.V.N.Pallavi, learned Government Pleader for Village Ward and Secretariat appearing on behalf of respondents.

3. The case of the petitioner, in brief, is that he possesses B.Sc. degree with Botany, Chemistry and Microbiology as optional subjects from Sri Venkateswara University and has been working as a Multi-Purpose Extension Officer (MPEO) in the Agriculture Department since 2015. Pursuant to Notification No.01/2019, dated 26.07.2019, issued for recruitment to the post of Village Agriculture Assistant (Grade-II), petitioner applied under the one-time exemption provided to serving MPEOs possessing B.Sc. (BZC) qualification, appeared for the examination, qualified therein and successfully completed certificate verification. However, the respondents denied him appointment on the ground that Botany was not his main subject, despite appointing similarly situated candidates possessing identical qualifications. It is further submitted that the grievance of similarly situated candidates was considered by this Court in W.P.No.18108 of 2019, by order, dated

02.09.2022, directing the respondents to consider their cases, and in W.P.No.39757 of 2022, by order dated 08.12.2022, this Hon'ble Court directed that two posts of Village Agriculture Assistant be kept vacant. Petitioner, therefore, claims that his case is squarely covered by the aforesaid orders and seeks a direction to the respondents to consider his candidature and issue appointment and posting orders, particularly in view of the availability of one vacant post of Village Agriculture Assistant in SPSR Nellore District.

4. Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that pursuant to the notification issued by the 1st respondent for recruitment of Village Agriculture Assistants (for short 'V.A.A') *vide* notification No.01/2019, dated 26.07.2019, the qualification prescribed was :-

> "Must have passed the 4 years B.Sc (Agriculture) (OR) 4 years B.Tech (Agriculture Engineering) from a recognized University in the State/any other University accredited by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare, Govt. of India, New Delhi. (OR) 2 years Diploma in Agriculture Polytechnic (OR) 2 years Diploma in Agriculture Polytechnic (Seed Technology) (OR) 2 years Diploma in Agriculture Polytechnic (Organic Farming) (OR) 3 years Diploma in Agriculture Polytechnic (Agricultural Engineering) recognized by the ANGRAU (OR) Serving MPEOs with B.Sc (BZC) degree are also eligible to apply as a one-time exemption for having worked as MPEO in the Dept. of Agriculture). On selection B.Sc (BZC) candidates should acquire a 2 year Diploma in Agriculture Polytechnic to get eligibility for further promotion."

5. Learned counsel for the petitioner further submits that, pursuant to the aforesaid notification, petitioner applied for the post of Village Agriculture Assistant (V.A.A.), was permitted to appear for the examination and successfully qualified therein. Thereafter, petitioner was issued a call letter for certificate verification for the said post. Accordingly, petitioner appeared

before the verification authorities on 01.11.2019 and submitted his certificates for verification. However, despite successfully completing the certificate verification process, petitioner's candidature was not considered, and no reasons were assigned for the same. On enquiry, petitioner was informed that he did not satisfy the prescribed eligibility criteria.

6. In support of his submissions, learned counsel for the petitioner relied on directions of this Court issued in W.P.No.18108 of 2019 and prays to allow this Writ Petition.

7. Heard Sri Suresh Kumar Routhu, learned counsel for the petitioner and Sri K.V.N.Pallavi, learned Assistant Government Pleader for Village, Ward and Secretariat appearing on behalf of respondents.

8. On perusal of the order relied upon by the learned counsel for the petitioner, it is evident that certain persons working as M.P.E.Os. had approached this Court by filing W.P.No.18108 of 2019, questioning the inaction of respondent Nos.2 to 4 in not issuing appointment and posting orders despite their possessing requisite qualifications, having Botany as one of the optional subjects in their B.Sc. degree and successfully completing the certificate verification process. The said writ petition was allowed by this Court, directing the respondents therein to consider the cases of the petitioners in accordance with the observations made therein. The relevant portion of the said order is extracted hereunder:

"…10. In view of the above facts and circumstances, considering the fact that the petitioners also possess the requisite qualification as per the notification dated 26.07.2019 and as the candidates, who possessed B.Sc. with Botany as the main subject, have also been considered for the post of Village Agriculture Assistant (Grade-II), this Court is inclined to direct the respondents 2 to 4 to consider the representation dated 24.01.2022 said to have been made by the petitioners 1 to 4 and 6 to 10 and pass appropriate orders in accordance with the observations as made above, within a period of four (04) weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order, in the vacancies reserved for the petitioners in pursuance of the interim order of this Court, dated 11.12.2019. The claim as against the 5th petitioner is hereby dismissed, as he already joined in some other Department as stated by the learned counsel for the petitioners…."

9. Pursuant to the directions as indicated above, petitioners therein were appointed as Village Agriculture Assistants.

10. Learned counsel for the petitioner contends that the petitioner herein is similarly situated to the petitioners in the aforesaid writ petition, as he possesses a B.Sc. degree with Botany, Microbiology and Chemistry as subjects, and Botany was considered as one of the qualifying subjects for appointment to the post of V.A.A. Learned counsel further submits that, pursuant to the orders passed in the said writ petition, the cases of the petitioners therein were considered by the respondents. However, petitioner's case has not been considered, despite he being similarly situated and standing on an equal footing with the petitioners therein.

11. Learned Assistant Government Pleader for Village and Ward Secretariats, reiterating the averments made in the counter affidavit, denied the claims of the petitioner and submitted that, as per the notification, only those M.P.E.Os. possessing B.Sc. (BZC), i.e., Botany, Zoology and Chemistry, are eligible for appointment. However, the factum of appointment

of the petitioners therein pursuant to the directions of this Court in W.P.No.18108 of 2019 is not in dispute. In the said writ petition, the 4th respondent therein filed an affidavit furnishing details of the persons working as V.A.A.s with B.Sc. qualification, wherein Botany was one of the main subjects. The relevant portion of the said affidavit reads as follows:

"…2. It is respectfully submitted that the Department issued Notification No. 01/2019, dated 26.07.2019, inviting applications for recruitment to the post of Village Agriculture Assistant (Grade-II) in the A.P. Agricultural Subordinate Services. The notification, inter alia, prescribed the educational qualifications and the conditions governing eligibility for the post.

3. It is respectfully submitted that, I am filing this affidavit to furnish information of available vacancies and also number of persons working against the posts with the qualification as "Botany" is one of the subject as per the directions of this Hon'ble High Court on 16.10.2026.

4. It is respectfully submitted that, 12 members of the Multi-Purpose Extension Officers (MPEOs) are working in SPSR Nellore District with B.Sc. (BBC) qualification as on 01/01/2019. The exact details of the said 12 MPEOs, including their names, qualifications, service particulars, candidature and the status of any connected writ petitions are mentioned as follows:

Sl.No.	Name of the MPEO	Qualification	W.P.No.	Remarks
1.	S.Penchala Rao	B.Sc(BBC)	18108 of 2019	Posted as VVAs (Gr.II) as per final orders issued by Hon'ble High Court
2.	T.Manohar	B.Sc(BBC)		
3.	M.Ramanamma	B.Sc(BBC)		
4.	P.Yugandhar	B.Sc(BBC)		
5.	G.Mahesh	B.Sc(BBC)		
6.	P.Supriya	B.Sc(BBC)		
7.	V.Prabhavathi	B.Sc(BBC)		
8.	Sk.Abdul Kareem	B.Sc(BBC)		
9.	P.Balaji Rao	B.Sc(BBC)		
10.	K.Rekha	B.Sc(BBC)	20092 / 2019	
11.	P.Prasanthi	B.Sc(BBC)	18623 / 2020	
12.	D.Krishnaiah	B.Sc(BBC)	16385 / 2020	Petitioner died.

5. It is respectfully submitted that, as per the present vacancy position reported for verification, a total of 35 posts of Village Agriculture Assistant (Grade-II) are vacant in SPSR Nellore District. The said figure represents the present vacancies and is distinct from the 434 posts shown for the Erstwhile Nellore District after rationalization (vacancy position copy enclosed)…"

12. Learned Assistant Government Pleader for Village and Ward Secretariats further submits that 35 posts of Village Agriculture Assistant (Grade-II) are vacant in SPSR Nellore District and that 12 Multi-Purpose Extension Officers (MPEOs), possessing B.Sc. qualification with Botany as one of the main subjects, were appointed in the said district pursuant to the directions issued by this Court in W.P.Nos.18108 of 2019 and 18623 of 2020. Out of the said 12 persons, the 12th petitioner is no more.

13. Considering the above facts and circumstances, this Writ Petition is disposed of in terms of the orders passed by this Court in W.P.No.18108 of 2019, dated 02.07.2026, directing the respondents to consider the case of the petitioner for appointment to the post of Village Agriculture Assistant (Grade-II) against the available vacancies and pass appropriate orders in accordance with law, within a period of two (02) months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. There shall be no order as to costs.

Consequently, miscellaneous petitions if any, shall stand closed.

JUSTICE BALAJI MEDAMALLI

Dated: 30.10.2026
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THE HONOURABLE SRI JUSTICE BALAJI MEDAMALLI

Writ Petition No. 5759 of 2023

Date: 30.10.2026

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