



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

CWP-34867-2025 (O&M)

Date of decision: 10.02.2026

Sohal Lal

....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and others

....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE KULDEEP TIWARI

Present: Mr. Sunny K. Singla, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Mr. Sahil R. Bakshi, AAG, Punjab.

KULDEEP TIWARI, J. (Oral)

1. The petitioner, by way of instant writ petition, filed under Articles 226/227 of the Constitution of India, assails the orders dated 04.10.2022 (Annexure P-5), 27.05.2024 (Annexure P-6), and 13.08.2024 (Annexure P-8), vide which, benefit of 14 years of Assured Career Progression Scheme (ACP), has been withdrawn. So much so, his claim for 32 years ACP has also been rejected.

2. This Court, through an order dated 28.11.2025, had directed the learned State counsel to apprise this Court, after having instructions, as to, in which Assured Career Progression Scheme, the petitioner is entitled to avail the benefit.

3. In response, he, upon instructions from the Executive Engineer, Provincial Division, PWD (B&R), Bathinda, submits that, the benefit of 14 years ACP was extended to the petitioner, but his pay scale has been slashed (from 5910-202000, Grade Pay 3000, to 5910-202000, Grade Pay 1950). In this regard, he has also produced a copy of communication dated 24.12.2025, which is taken on record as Mark 'A'.

4. Upon being pointedly asked, as to whether, the petitioner was afforded any opportunity of hearing, before downgrading his pay scale, he answers in the negative. In such a situation, this Court is of the



affirmed view that the authorities ought to have called for a response of the petitioner, before reducing his pay scale, and also rejecting his claim, as referred to above. Rather, the impugned orders, and also the order dated 24.12.2025 (supra), have been passed in a sheer cursory and cavalier manner.

5 In view of the above, the impugned orders, coupled with the order dated 24.12.2025 (Mark ‘A’), are unsustainable, and thus, the same are **set aside**. As a consequence, the Executive Engineer, Provincial Division- respondent No.3, is directed to re-consider the claim of the petitioner, and pass a speaking order, in accordance with law, within a period of 08 weeks from the receipt of a certified copy of this order. Needless to assert, the petitioner shall be afforded a due opportunity to putforth his stand, in support of his claim.

6. **Disposed of**, accordingly.

(KULDEEP TIWARI)
JUDGE

10.02.2026
Ak Sharma

Whether speaking/reasoned	Yes
Whether reportable	Yes/No