HIGH COURT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

AT JAMMU

LPASW No. 45/2016, MP No. 1/2016 LPASW No. 46/2016, MP No. 1/2016 LPASW No. 47/2016, MP No. 1/2016 LPASW No. 48/2016, MP No. 1/2016 LPASW No. 49/2016, MP No. 1/2016 APLPA Nos. 11, 12, 13 & 14 of 2016 CDLSW Nos. 24, 25, 26, 27 & 28 of 2016 Caveat Nos. 556/2016 and 2195/2016

Date of order: 30.03.2016

LPASW No. 45/2016

State of J&K through
 Principal Secretary to Government,
 Home Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

 Director General of Police, J&K State,

PHQ, Jammu.

Appellants.....

Vs.

 Lalit Kumar Sharma S/O Daya Krishan Sharma R/O C/O Nicky Tea Stall Pir Mitha, Jammu.

2. Rakesh Bandral
S/o Vash Dev Singh Bandral
R/O Gujjar Mohalla, Bantalab, Jammu.

Respondents.....

LPASW No.46/2016

State of J&K through
 Principal Secretary to Government,
 Home Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

 Director General of Police, J&K State.

PHQ, Jammu.

Appellants.....

Vs.

Ayub Khan S/O Mohd Shafi R/O House No. 318, Bharat Nagar Rehari Colony, Jammu.

Respondent.....

LPASW No.472016

State of J&K through
 Principal Secretary to Government,
 Home Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

 Director General of Police.

Director General of Police, J&K State, PHQ, Jammu.

Appellants.....

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Ranjit Singh Chib

S/O Mohan Singh Chib R/O House No. 316-D, Lower Shiv Nagar, Jammu and 9 others

Respondents.....

LPASW No.48/2016

State of J&K through
 Principal Secretary to Government,
 Home Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

2. Director General of Police, J&K State,

PHQ, Jammu.

Appellants.....

Vs.
Paramjeet Singh
S/O S. Tara Singh
R/O M. H. Mor, Govind Nagar,
Tehsil & District Udhampur.

Respondent.....

LPASW No.49/2016

State of J&K through
 Principal Secretary to Government,
 Home Department, Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

2. Director General of Police,

J&K State, PHQ, Jammu.

Appellants.....

Vs.

Avtar Krishan
 S/O Sh Rattan lal

R/O Bhatyari, Tehsil Bishnah, Jammu and 2 others.

Respondents.....

Coram:

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Hon'ble Mr. Justice N. Paul Vasanthakumar, Chief Justice Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bansi Lal Bhat, Judge

Appearing counsel:

For the Appellant(s) : Mr. W. S. Nargal, AAG.

For the respondent(s) : Mr. Abhinav Sharma, Advocate.

i/ Whether to be reported in

Yes

Press/Media

Whether to be reported in : Yes

Digest/Journal

N. Paul Vasanthakumar-CJ:

Caveat Nos. 556/2016 and 2195/2016

Caveat petitions are discharged.

APLPA Nos. 11, 12, 13 & 14 of 2016

These applications have been filed seeking dispensing with the requirement of filing certified copy of the judgment along with appeals on the ground that the same have been filed in connected appeal LPASW No.49 of 2016. The applications are allowed.

CDLSW Nos. 24, 25, 26, 27 & 28 of 2016

These applications have been filed seeking condonation of delay in filing the appeals. As the appeals are being taken up for final disposal with the consent of learned counsel for the parties, the delay in filing the appeals is condoned and the appeals are taken up for consideration.

LPASW Nos.45, 46, 47, 48 & 49 of 2016

These appeals are filed against common order made in SWP Nos.373/2009, 236/2009, 367/2009, 349/2009, 322/2009, 362/2009. 417/2009, 374/2009, 398/2009. 1531/2009. 457/2009, 472/2009, 371/2009, 904/2009 and OWP no. dated 07.03.2014 and order passed in review 1272/2009 petitions dated 18.12.2015 whereby the review petitions filed against the order of the learned Single Judge were dismissed at the condone delay stage. The writ court allowed the writ petition by order dated 07.03.2014 and issued directions to appoint the writ petitioners as Sub Inspectors who have made the grade and are shown selected by reckoning their age for purposes of being eligible as it was in the year 2007 i.e. the date of earlier

advertisement notice or in alternative, they deserve relaxation of age for appointment and held them entitled to appointment and the State-respondents were directed to consider the claim of the merit list candidates for appointment for whom the posts were reserved.

2. The case of the private respondents/writ petitioners before the writ court was that in the year 2003, an advertisement notice was issued inviting applications for filing up the post of Sub Inspectors in J&K Police and the process of selection could not be commenced up to the year 2007. In the year 2007, fresh advertisement was issued stating that candidates who had applied earlier for the posts of Sub Inspector in pursuance of advertisement notice 19.05.2003 need not apply again and in case any candidate has crossed the upper age limit, his age will be reckoned from the date he has applied earlier as per advertisement dated 19.05.2003. Again the selection could not be commenced and in the year 2009, four (4) advertisement notifications were issued for filling of the post of Sub Inspectors in (1) (Executive Wing), (2) (Armed Wing), (3) (Auxiliary Wing) and (4) (Telecommunication wing) of J&K Police. The writ petitioners had crossed the upper age limit and therefore, they could not apply due to the inaction of the respondents/appellants herein as the process of selection initiated pursuant to advertisement

notice issued in the year 2003 and 2007 could not be proceeded as such they cannot be denied the right of consideration in the year 2009 on the ground that they have crossed the prescribed age limit. In the advertisement notices issued in the year 2009 nothing was said about the age relaxation to such of those candidates who had applied earlier as it was stated in the advertisement issued in the year 2007.

- 3. It is an admitted fact that in the year 1999, the process of selection for the post of Sub Inspectors (Executive Wing) was initiated and a list of 259 candidates was drawn at District level merit which was challenged on various grounds contending that Sub Inspector post is a State cadre post, therefore, the merit list should have been drawn at the State level. The writ petitions were allowed. Letters Patent Appeals filed were dismissed and Special Leave Petitions were preferred before Hon'ble the Supreme Court which were also dismissed on 10.02.2004 and three months time was given to implement the judgment by Hon'ble Supreme Court.
- 4. Thereafter, the merit list was re-drawn at State level and in that process, 54 candidates got included to the exclusion of 47 candidates who were earlier selected. The said 47 candidates challenged their exclusion. 22 more candidates, who also filed writ petitions subsequently and claimed benefit at par with 54 candidates who were found eligible. Again the

matter was settled by Hon'ble the Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 4758 of 2006 on the statement made by the learned Advocate General that all 47 candidates who were likely to go out of job and 22 persons who filed writ petitions subsequently will be accommodated. He had further submitted that all the above 47 candidates who were selected and appointed and are presently working will be allowed to continue. Based on the said submissions made by learned Advocate General on behalf of the State, the appeal was disposed of. Hence, 47 candidates who were already selected were allowed to continue and 22 similarly placed candidates were also appointed by order 2005 dated 23.02.2005. According to No.685 of appellants/State, as 47 plus 22 candidates candidates in excess to the advertised posts in the year 1999 were adjusted, no vacancy remained unfilled for selection in the Executive Wing. Hence two advertisement notices were withdrawn on 1.07.2008 and 10.07.2008 and therefore, the candidates who applied including the writ petitions have no right to seek consideration for the post advertised in the year 2003 and 2007.

5. When the writ petitions were heard by the writ court, the State was specifically asked to show the number of posts advertised in the year 2003 and 2007. According to the State, only 69 vacancies were available and due to adjustment of 69

candidates in compliance to the assurance given before the Hon'ble the Supreme Court, no vacancy was available. The Writ Court noticing the position in the year 2003 and vacancy position in the year 2006, noticed availability of 113 posts of Sub Inspectors in Executive Police and 17 posts of Sub Inspectors in Armed Police. It was further noticed by the Writ Court that in case 37 vacancies were available in the year 2006 against which aforesaid 22 candidates have to be adjusted in compliance to the directions of Hon'ble the Supreme Court, still 15 vacancies were available in the year 2007 and same could not have been withdrawn. Considering the said fact the Writ Court, taking note of the interim orders issued pursuant to which the writ petitioners were allowed to participate in the selection process who have been found meritorious, thought fit to issue directions as mentioned above. The review petition filed by the appellants were also dismissed at condone delay stage by order dated 18.12.2015.

6. Considering the peculiar facts and circumstances of the case and having regard to the fact that writ petitions' right to be considered for selection to the post of Sub Inspectors was affected due to the stand unilaterally taken by learned Advocate General before Hon'ble the Supreme Court to accommodate 69 candidates, the learned Single Judge thought fit to protect the

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rights of the petitioners considering the availability of

vacancies.

7. The contention of the learned counsel for the appellants is

that in the Executive Wing, vacancies were not filled up

because persons serving on deputation from other Wings are

not sent back. The same being the fault of the appellants, it

cannot be put against the private respondents/ writ petitioners.

The said issue can be resolved by the State either by

repatriating the deputationists to the extent required or

temporarily accommodate the writ petitioners in the Armed

Wing till the deputationists are repatriated.

8. In such view of the matter, we are unable to find any

reason to interfere with the order of the learned Single Judge.

The appeals are dismissed with direction to implement the

order of the Writ Court within six weeks. No costs.

(Bansi Lal Bhat)
Judge

(N. Paul Vasanthakumar)
Chief Justice

Jammu, 30.03.2016 Anil Raina, Secy