Bhagat Ram and Ors. Vs. State of H.P. and Ors. a/w connected matters

CWPOA No. 1007 of 2019 a/w CWPOA Nos. 3163, 3627, 4374, 6355, 6368, 6392, 6400, 7039 of 2019, CWP No. 1562 of 2020, CWPOA Nos. 588, 3092, 4268, 4631, 5321, 5481, 5604 and 6641 of 2020

26.03.2025 Present:

Mr. Bhuvnesh Sharma, Sr. Advocate, with Ms. Vishali Lakhanpal, Advocate, Mr. Vikas Rajput and Mr. Daleep Kaith, Advocates, for the petitioner(s) in the respective petitions.

Mr. Baldev Singh Negi, Additional Advocate General, for the respondent/State.

In pursuance to order dated 17.03.2025, one communication dated 25.03.2025 addressed by Under Secretary (Education) to the Government of H.P. to the office of learned Advocate General has been shown, in which it has been stated that the matter has been sent to Finance (Pay Revision Department), for seeking clarification and for such purpose request has been made to pray for further three weeks time to file supplementary affidavit.

The Principal Secretary (Education) was directed to file the affidavit by making observation during the proceedings held on 17.03.2025 in following terms:-

"Affidavit dated 10.06.2024 of the Principal Secretary (Education) has been perused, which in fact places reliance on an office order dated 24.04.2024, passed by the said Officer.

The office order dated 24.04.2024 does not even remotely touches upon the direction issued by this Court vide judgment dated 28.09.2023. There is nothing in the office order dated 24.04.2024 or affidavit dated 10.06.2024 to suggest that any exercise has been undertaken to assess as to whether the increase in price index was one of the parameters considered by the authorities for granting the pay revision to various categories of the employees of State Government other than the category of Laboratory Assistants.

The remaining part of the direction issued in the judgment will necessarily depends upon the answer to the first query.

Confronted with this, learned Additional Advocate General seeks a week's time to file supplementary affidavit. Be filed on or before the next date of hearing.

List on 26.03.2025."

Instead of filing an affidavit, a request has been through the office of learned Advocate General for made adjourning the case. This clearly is defiance to the Court's order. Once, the Principal Secretary (Education) was asked to file the affidavit, whatever was required to be stated by him was to be in the shape of affidavit.

Let the version of Principal Secretary (Education) be placed on record by way of affidavit on 28.03.2025.

> (Satyen Vaidya) Judge

26th March, 2025 (sushma)