

State of Maharashtra and Others Vs. Dr. Shri Hari Shankar Vaidhya and Others

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Court : Supreme Court of India

Decided On : Apr-07-1997

Reported in : AIR1997SC3069; JT1997(4)SC702; 1997(3)SCALE677; (1997)9SCC521; [1997]3SCR697

Judge : K. Ramaswamy and; D.P. Wadhwa, JJ.

Acts : Maharashtra State Government Civil Service (Pension) Rules, 1982

Appeal No. : Civil Appeal Nos. 2878-79 of 1997

Appellant : State of Maharashtra and Others

Respondent : Dr. Shri Hari Shankar Vaidhya and Others

Advocate for Def. : Dushyant A. Dave, ; and M. Karanjawala, Adv.

Advocate for Pet/Ap. : V. Mohta and D.M. Nargolkar, Adv

Prior history : From the Judgment and Order dated 14.06.96 of the Mumbai High Court in W.P. No.3508 of 1992

Judgement :

K. Ramaswamy and D.P. Wadhwa, JJ.

1. Leave granted. We have heard learned Counsel on both sides.

2. These appeals by special leave arise from the judgment of the Division Bench of the Bombay High Court, made on June 14, 1996 in Writ Petition No. 3508/92 and Writ Petition No. 2645/90.

3. The admitted position is that the respondents are the teachers working in Ayurvedic, Unani and Homeopathic private aided educational institutions. One of the questions which requires examination is : whether they are eligible for pension and gratuity scheme on par with state Government Civil Servants under the Maharashtra State Government Civil Service (Pension) Rules, 1982, (for short, the 'Rules'). Admittedly, per se, the Rules do not apply to them. Pursuant to the recommendations made by UGC, the Government of Maharashtra by its Resolution dated May 26, 1981 have adopted the uniform pay-scales being paid to the non-teaching staff and teachers working in aided educational institutions, i.e. Ayurvedic, Unani and Homeopathic colleges. By another Resolution dated July 29, 1983, they extended the benefit to the non-Government organisations on par with the Government organisations. Since the Government have not extended the benefit of pension and gratuity scheme, a writ petition was filed in the High Court in that behalf. The High Court has disposed it of in the impugned order. Thus, these appeals by special leave.

4. As regards the grant-in-aid, this is not in controversy and, therefore, we need not go into the question. The only question is : whether the respondents are entitled to the pension and gratuity on par with Government servants? Shri Mohta, learned senior counsel appearing for the State, has contended that in view of the huge financial outlay, the Government has been, in a phased manner, extending the benefits from time to time and, therefore, the direction cannot be given to tide down the hands of the Government to extend all the benefits to all of them at a stretch. Shri D.A. Dave, learned senior counsel for the respondents, on the other hand, has contended that when the grant-in-aid and the pension were not being extended to the teachers working in the private law colleges, the High Court has given direction to extend the benefit which was affirmed by this Court in *State of Maharashtra v. Manubhai Pragaji Vashi and Ors.* : AIR 1996 SC1 . Therefore, the

same benefit may be extended to them. He also cited *State of H.P. v. H.P. State Recognised & Aided Schools Managing Committees and Ors.* : (1995)4SCC507 wherein this Court has directed to extend grant-in-aid to the private educational institutions, middle-class and lower middle-class aided schools.

5. In view of the respective contentions, the only question that arises for consideration is : whether the High Court would be justified to grant the pension and gratuity scheme to the teachers working in the Ayurvedic, Unani and Homeopathic aided institutions. It is seen that pursuant to the direction issued by this Court, the pension and gratuity scheme were extended to the Law Colleges from 1995. Whether the scheme could be extended or not is a question of an executive policy and the Court would not take the responsibility of directing the Government to extend the policy. Court requires examination as to how the policy laid down is being worked out. It is stated that since huge financial outlay is involved in extending the benefits and the Government is not intending to deny the benefit to the segment of the teachers, we appreciate the stand taken by the Government. The Government is, therefore, directed to consider extension of the benefit of pension and gratuity scheme to the teachers working in the Ayurvedic, Unani and Homeopathic aided educational institutions in a phased manner, as was done with respect to the other aided institutions.

6. The appeals are, accordingly, disposed of. No costs.