

BEFORE THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL  
BOMBAY BENCH

R.P.No. 14/95 in /and  
O.A. 1047/94 C.P.51/95

State of Maharashtra &  
2 Others

.. Applicants  
(Original respondents)

Vs.

V.R. Singh

.. Respondent  
(Original applicant)

CORAM : 1. Hon'ble Shri Justice M.S.Deshpande, V.C  
----- 2. Hon'ble Shri P.P. Srivastava, Member (A)

TRIBUNAL'S ORDER

DATED : 31/03/1995

(Per. Shri. M.S. Deshpande, Vice-chairman)

Heard Shri. S.G. Aney alongwith Shri.M.M.Sudame, learned counsel for the original applicant and Shri. G.K. Neelkanth, learned counsel for the original respondents.

2. By this R.P, the applicants(original respondents) seek review of our order dated 8/12/1994 in O.A.1047/94 by which we had quashed the order of suspension passed against the original applicant on 30/07/1994. The applicant was Dy.Conservator of Forests, East Melghat Division, Amravati and he was placed under suspension with effect from 30.7.94. Charge-sheet dated 27.10.1994 was served on him on 28.10.94 . On September 1 and September 2, 1994, the State Government made two reports to the Central Government (Exhibit 'A' & 'B'). By the first report, the circumstances which were to be taken into consideration against the applicant were set-out

It was mentioned by the state government in para 5 of the said letter that the material was being brought to the notice of Government of India in accordance with rule 3(6A) of the All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules 1969, in continuation of earlier communication vide telegram dated 1.9.1994. By the second letter, the relevant provisions of Rule 3(1) were pointed-out and request was made to the Central Government to permit the State Government to initiate disciplinary proceedings against the applicant and Shri.S.S.Misra within 90 days of the date of their suspension as required under the Rules. It was pointed-out that the applicant and Shri.S.S.Misra were served with the suspension order on 1.8.1994 and 3.8.1994 respectively. This request was repeated by letter dated 23rd September 1994 for initiating disciplinary proceedings against these two officers (Exhibit 'C'). In reply to these communications, the Central Government (Respondent No. 1) sent a letter dt. 30th September 1994 (Exhibit 'D') in the following words :

"I am directed to refer your letter No.AFO 1094/CR 242/Pt-II/F-7 dated 1st September and 2nd September 1994 on the above mentioned subject and convey herewith the approval of the Government of India to the initiation of disciplinary proceedings against Shri.V.R.Singh and Shri.S.S. Misra within 90 days from the date of suspension."

3. The charge-sheet was not served <sup>on</sup> against the applicant within the first 45 days as required under the second proviso to Rule 3. The charge-sheet came to be served within the next 45 days, that is within 90 days, and this position is not disputed by the learned counsel for the respondents (applicants in this R.P). When we were hearing the matter earlier, the learned counsel for the original respondents was not present and we passed

the order quashing the suspension order only upon hearing the learned counsel for the original applicant. The submission of learned counsel for original respondent No. 2 in review petition, is that by obtaining the approval of the Central Government for initiating disciplinary proceedings and served <sup>two</sup> charge-sheet within 90 days, there was full compliance with the requirements of second proviso and therefore we should recall our order quashing the suspension by granting this review application.

4. Part II of All India Services (Discipline & Appeal) Rules 1969 deals with suspension and sub-rule 1 provides that if the State or Central Government is satisfied that it is necessary or desirable to place under suspension a member of the Service, against whom disciplinary proceedings are contemplated or are pending, that Government may pass an order of suspension pending conclusion of the disciplinary proceedings and the passing of the final order in the case. The first proviso deals with the case of difference of opinion between the governments concerned and is not material for the purposes of this order. The second proviso is in the following terms:

"Provided further that, where a State Government passes an order placing under suspension a member of the Service against whom disciplinary proceedings are contemplated, such an order shall not be valid unless, before the expiry of a period of fortyfive days from the date from which the member is placed under suspension, or such further period not exceeding fortyfive days as may be specified by the Central Government for reasons to be recorded in writing, either disciplinary proceedings are initiated against him or the order of suspension is confirmed by the Central Government".

5. As we have already pointed-out, the charge-sheet had not been served on the applicant within fortyfive days and what is to be seen is whether the action of the Central Government by sending letter (Exhibit 'D') to

which we have already referred, meets with the requirements of second proviso. The proviso is couched in negative terms and says that such order shall not be valid unless before the expiry of a period of fortyfive days from the date from which the member is placed under suspension, firstly either disciplinary proceedings are initiated against him or an order of suspension is confirmed by the Central Government. Both these requirements are not present in the present case, and ~~we are~~ required <sup>the</sup> ~~us~~ to examine whether <sup>the</sup> other requirements are fulfilled namely whether within such further period of 45 days as may be specified by Central Government for reasons to be recorded in writing, the disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against him or the order of suspension is confirmed by the Central Government. We have already pointed-out that in the communications at Exhibit 'A', 'B' and 'C' of the respondents No. 2, sent to the Central Government, the only request was that the period for initiating departmental proceedings should be extended. <sup>Under Rule 3(6A)</sup> ~~a~~ detailed report has to be sent to the Central Government ordinarily within a period of 15 days from the date a member of the service is suspended or deemed to have been suspended as the case may be. By none of these communications, was a request made for confirmation of the suspension imposed by the State Government nor the Central Government purportedly did so by the letter at Exhibit 'D' dated 30th September 1994.

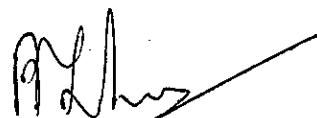
6. The learned counsel for the original respondent No.2 argued that notwithstanding this, if the approval has been granted by the Central Government for initiating disciplinary proceedings ~~and~~ they are initiated within a period of 90 days from the order of suspension, the suspension would still continue to be valid and that the

relevant Rules shall have to be read disjunctively. After considering these submissions, we find that ~~and~~ the requirement is that even for utilising further period of 45 days the Central Government has to record the reasons in writing and this requirement is not fulfilled because the Central Government has not given any reasons in writing for the purpose as is the requirement but has granted only approval for initiating disciplinary proceedings. If the first period of 45 days is allowed to pass, then in our view, the validity of the order of suspension would depend only on the Central Government recording its reasons in writing. Shri.Neelkanth, the learned counsel for the 2nd respondent urged that those reasons would be found in the letters at Exhibit 'A', 'B' and 'C' which have been sent by the State Government to the Central Government. May be, the circumstances of the case have been placed by the State Government before the Central Government for taking action in terms of ~~the~~ the second proviso to sub-rule 1 of Rule 3. But it is not the narration of events by State Government which would meet the requirements but ~~the~~ the application of mind by Central Government ~~by~~ recording its own reasons for permitting disciplinary proceedings to be initiated that would make the suspension valid after expiry of the first 45 days. The proviso is couched in negative terms and shall have therefore to be construed as being mandatory and it was therefore obligatory on the 1st respondent if the first 45 days were allowed to pass without initiating departmental enquiry, to record its reasons in writing.

The continuation of the validity of order of suspension would depend upon the recording of reasons in writing by the Central Government. No material has been placed before us except a letter, at exhibit 'D' which granted approval, without recording any reasons for initiating disciplinary proceedings within 90 days. We therefore are clear that having regard to the second proviso to sub-rule 1 of Rule 3, the suspension order could not have continued to be valid. We, therefore, see no merit in the present review application, it is dismissed.

C.P. 51/95

In view of the above order, Shri.Neelkanth, learned counsel for the respondents requests for time to file reply to C.P. Reply be filed within 2 weeks. The C.P should come-up at Nagpur on 27.4.1995.



(P.P. SRIVASTAVA)  
MEMBER (A)



(M.S.DESHPANDE)  
VICE-CHAIRMAN