

**CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL
HYDERABAD BENCH
HYDERABAD**

OA/020/140/2013

Dated: 20/06/2019

Between

G. Gopala Krishna Murthy,
S/o. V.V.S.N. Murthy,
aged about 44 years,
R/o. Niddigattu, Alamanda ó Post,
L. Kota Mandalam,
Vizianagaram District.

... Applicant

AND

1. Union of India rep. by
The Chief Postmaster General,
Visakhapatnam Region,
Visakahaptanm, A.P.
2. Superintendent of Post Offices,
Railway Mail Services,
Department of Posts,
V Division, Visakhapatnam, A.P.

... Respondents

Counsel for the Applicant : Mr. K. Sudhaker Reddy
Counsel for the Respondents : Mrs. L. Pranathi Reddy, Addl. CGSC

CORAM :

Hon'ble Mr. Justice L. Narasimha Reddy, Chairman
Hon'ble Mr. B.V. Sudhakar, Admn. Member

ORAL ORDER

(Per Honøble Mr. Justice L. Narasimha Reddy, Chairman)

The Postal Department is one of the oldest ones, in the country. It was functioning very effectively and it is the only department of the Central

Government, whose services are available to every nook and corner of the country. Unfortunately, the indiscriminate steps taken by some irresponsible officers, have led to a situation, wherein the department is almost becoming irrelevant in the affairs of the country. Persons were being appointed as per the wishes of the appointing authorities, without reference to the available number of vacancies and once the situation has reached disturbing levels, the appointments were stopped completely. Another aspect is that, not the rules but the schemes are framed from time to time to meet the situations. They include, conferment of permanent status or full time casual labourer status, which hardly bring about any element of efficiency.

2. The applicant states that he is working as casual labourer in the Visakhapatnam RMS V Division of Posts since 1983. He filed this O.A. with a prayer to direct the respondents to confer upon him, the temporary status, on completion of 240 days.

3. Learned counsel for the respondents has placed before us, a letter dated 31.1.2018, which is to the effect that, as against 51 posts of GDS in the Division, 43 are vacant and only 8 are working. The particulars of the casual labourers working in the Division are also furnished, and the applicant figured at item No.19 in Annex.A-III.

4. The respondents filed counter affidavit opposing the O.A. It is stated that the applicant was engaged intermittently, and each time he worked only for 6 hours in a day. It is stated that according to the scheme framed, it is

only the casual labourers, who have worked for 240 days in a year for 8 hours in each day, that are entitled to be conferred with the status of permanent casual labour.

5. We heard Sri K. Sudhaker Reddy, learned counsel for the applicant and Smt. L. Pranathi Reddy, learned Standing Counsel for the respondents.

6. It is indeed, a sad state of affairs that, as against the sanctioned strength of 53 GDS posts, 43 are vacant. The level of efficiency of the department can easily be estimated. It is almost in a skeletal existence. It does not at all augur well for a department of that nature.

7. It is not as if the work in the Post Office is of temporary or seasonal, in nature. When the whole establishment is permanent in nature, there is no reason why the posts are not filled on regular basis, in accordance with the prescribed procedure. The cases of the persons, who are working for long, can also be considered, if necessary, by relaxing the stipulation as to the age limit to the extent of the service rendered by them, subject to a limit, as is done in various departments.

8. We, therefore, dispose of the O.A., directing the respondents to take steps to fill the vacancies of GDS in Visakhapatnam RMS V Division, in accordance with the prescribed procedure, under the relevant rules and to consider the case of the applicant and all other similarly situated persons, if necessary, by granting age relaxation to the extent of the service rendered by

them, subject to the maximum that is stipulated in the relevant Government orders. This entire exercise shall be completed within a period of six months from the date of receipt of this order. There shall be no order as to costs.

(B.V. SUDHAKAR)
MEMBER (ADMN.)

(JUSTICE L. NARASIMHA REDDY)
CHAIRMAN

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