GUWAHATI BENCH VACATION COURT

Original Application No. 046/00328/2019
Date of Decision: 04.10.2019

THE HO'NBLE MRS N. NEIHSIAL ADMINISTRATIVE MEMBER

- P.No. 14117453 Sureshlal Baritha Mazdoor, Office of the Commanding Officer, 50 Coy, ASC (Supply)
 Type 'C', PIN – 905050 C/O 99 APO
- P.No 6473183H Sachin Kumar Sahni Cook, Office of the Commanding Officer, 50 Coy, ASC (Supply) Type 'C', PIN – 905050 C/O/ 99 APO
- 3. P.No. 6407320 Bachcha Singh Fire Engine Driver, (FED) Office of the Commanding Officer, 50 Coy, ASC (Supply) Type 'C', PIN – 905050 C/O/ 99 APO
- P.No. 6407383 Upender Singh
 Fire Engine Driver (FED)
 Office of the Commanding
 Officer, 50 Coy, ASC (Supply)
 Type 'C', PIN 905050 C/O/ 99 APO
- P.No. 6405694 Trilokna
 Retired Fireman, Office of the Commanding Officer, 50 Coy, ASC (Supply)
 Type 'C', PIN – 905050 C/O/ 99 APO
- 6. P.No. 14117445 Ramchandar Gouda Retired Mazdoor, Office of the Commanding Officer, 50 Coy, ASC (Supply) Type 'C', PIN – 905050 C/O/ 99 APO

- 7. P.No. 14117446 Satyanarayan
 Retired Mazdoor, Office of the Commanding
 Officer, 50 Coy, ASC (Supply)
 Type 'C', PIN 905050 C/O/ 99 APO
- 8. P.No. 6406720 Kedar
 Ex-Fireman, Office of the Commanding
 Officer, 50 Coy, ASC (Supply)
 Type 'C', PIN 905050 C/O/ 99 APO
- P.No. 6407321 Jagdish Prasad
 Ex-Fireman, Office of the Commanding
 Officer, 50 Coy, ASC (Supply)
 Type 'C', PIN 905050 C/O/ 99 APO
- P.No. 6402891NRC Nair
 Retired Mazdoor, Office of the Commanding
 Officer, 50 Coy, ASC (Supply)
 Type 'C', PIN 905050 C/O/ 99 APO
- 11. Smti Santhamma
 Wife of late Kunjumoan
 P.No. 6402895
 Mazdoor, Office of the Commanding
 Officer, 50 Coy, ASC (Supply)
 Type 'C', PIN 905050 C/O/ 99 APO
- 12. P.No. 14117383 Laldhar Retired Mazdoor, Office of the Commanding Officer, 50 Coy, ASC (Supply) Type 'C', PIN – 905050 C/O/ 99 APO
- 13. P.No. 14117443 Sirpat Ram
 Retired Mazdoor, Office of the Commanding
 Officer, 50 Coy, ASC (Supply)
 Type 'C', PIN 905050 C/O/ 99 APO
- 14. Smti V. Samma Wife of late K.N. Thankachan P.No. 6403301 Mazdoor, Office of the Commanding Officer, 50 Coy, ASC (Supply) Type 'C', PIN – 905050 C/O/ 99 APO

- 15. Smti S. Kuttan
 Wife of late C. T. Kuttan
 P.No. 6402893
 Mazdoor, Office of the Commanding
 Officer, 50 Coy, ASC (Supply)
 Type 'C', PIN 905050 C/O/ 99 APO
- 16. Smti Suseela Wife of late P.M. Bhaskaran P.No. 6402894 Mazdoor, Office of the Commanding Officer, 50 Coy, ASC (Supply) Type 'C', PIN – 905050 C/O/ 99 APO
- 17. P.No. 14117385 Akshay Rai Mazdoor, Office of the Commanding Officer, 50 Coy, ASC (Supply) Type 'C', PIN – 905050 C/O/ 99 APO

.....Applicants

By Advocate(s): Sri A. Ahmed

Smti. D. Goswami

Ms. A. Theyo

-VERSUS-

- The Union of India
 Represented by the Secretary to the Government of India
 Ministry of Defence, South Block
 New Delhi, PIN 110001.
- 2. The Commanding Officer 50 Coy ASC (Supply), Type 'C' PIN 905050 C/O 99 APO

....Respondents

By Advocate: Sri V. K. Bhatra, Sr. CGSC

ORDER (ORAL)

N. NEIHSIAL, MEMBER (A):

Since all these 17 applicants are seeking similar reliefs from the same respondents, the prayer for joining together in a single application under section 4 (5) (a) of the Administrative Tribunal Act, 1987 is allowed.

- 2. The instant O.A. has been preferred by the applicants under Section 19 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 seeking the following reliefs:
 - "8.1 To pay the Applicants the License Fee at the rate of 10% compensation per month to the Applicants in lieu of Rent Free Accommodation w.e.f 01.07.1987 in reference to the order and judgement passed by this Hon'ble Tribunal, Gauhati High Court and Supreme Court of India.
 - 8.2 To pay the cost of the case to the Applicants.
 - 8.3 Any other relief(s) that may be entitled to the Applicants.
- 3. Sri A. Ahmed, learned counsel for the applicants brought out that the present applicants were/are working under the Office of respondent No. 2 i.e. The Commanding Officer50 Coy ASC (Supply), Type 'C' PIN 905050 C/O 99 APO. The applicant Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 17 are Defence Civilian Employees and presently working as Mazdoor, Cook and Fire Engine Driver in the Office of the respondent No. 2 i.e. the Commanding Officer, 50 Coy ASC (Supply),

Type 'C', PIN – 9035050 C/O 99 APO. The applicant Nos. 5, 6, 7, 10, 12 & 13 had retired as Fireman & Mazdoor from the Commanding Officer, 50 Coy ASC (Supply), Type 'C', PIN - 9035050 C/O 99 APO, applicant Nos. 8 & 9 had served as Fireman & Mazdoor in the Commanding Officer, 50 Coy ASC (Supply), Type 'C', PIN – 9035050 C/O 99 APO and applicant Nos. 11, 14, 15 & 16 are the wife of late K.N. Thankachan, late C.P. Kuttan and late P.M. Bhaskaran who had served as Mazdoor in the Commanding Officer, 50 Coy ASC (Supply), Type 'C', PIN - 9035050 C/O 99 APO. Vide order dated 06.11.2000 passed in O.A. No. 143/1999 (Shri Krishna Sinha & Others Vs. the Union of India & Others), this Tribunal had passed orders in favour of the applicants who are similarly situated employees like the present applicants in regards to payment of license fee at the rate compensation per month in lieu Accommodation. The order of this Tribunal dated 06.11.2000 was upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 08.02.2010. Learned counsel also relied on a decision of this Tribunal dated 12.11.2015 passed in O.A. No. 377/2015 which has been affirmed by the Hon'ble Gauhati High Court vide judgement and order dated 02.03.2016 in WP(C) No. 1329/2016 and also other similarly situated cases of this Tribunal has been affirmed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 02.07.2017 in SLP © No. 882/2014. These

present applicants have claimed that they are similarly situated who have been given payment of 10% license fee in lieu of rent free accommodation. Learned counsel for the applicants has also brought out the order of this Tribunal dated 12.10.2018 passed in O.A. No. 267/2015 wherein the direction of this Tribunal reads as hereunder:

"In view of the above, respectfully following the decisions of this Tribunal as well as Hon'ble Gauhati High Court and also Hob'ble Supreme Court, we direct the respondents to decide the present issue in accordance with aforesaid precedents after examining the case of the applicants and pay the license fees at the rate of 10% compensation per month in lieu of Rent Free Accommodation within a period of two months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order."

4. Keeping in view of the above, I found that the O.A. can be disposed of at the admission stage. Accordingly, I direct the respondents to examine and verify whether these applicants are similarly situated as in case of O.A. No. 267/2015 and if they are found to be similarly situated, they may be considered and give the same benefits within a period of six (6) months from the date of receipt copy of this order. In case, some of the applicants have retired and the claim of the benefits is from the legal heir, the same benefits also be extended to them with due verification.

5. With the above directions, O.A. stands disposed of accordingly at the admission stage. No order as to costs.

(N. NEIHSIAL) MEMBER (A)

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