BEFORE THE KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA SERVICE TRIBUNAL PESHAWAR

Service Appeal No. 750/2019

BEFORE:	MR. SALAH-UD-DIN	•••	MEMBER (J)
	MISS FAREEHA PAUL	•••	MEMBER (E)

Riayat Khan, SCT GCMHS, Chokara, Karak..... (Appellant)

Versus

- 1. The Secretary E&SE, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Civil Secretariat Peshawar.
- 2. The Director E&SE, Peshawar.
- 3. The District Education Officer (Male), District Karak.
- 4. The Secretary Finance, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar.

Mr. Ashraf Ali Khattak, Advocate	For appellants
Mr. Fazal Shah Mohmand, Addl. Advocate General	For respondents
Date of Institution Date of Hearing Date of Decision	08.05.2010 18.09.2023 21.09.2023

JUDGEMENT

FAREEHA PAUL, MEMBER (E): Through this single judgment, we intend to dispose of instant appeal as well as connected Service Appeal No. 751/2019, titled "Jamil-ur-Rehman Versus the Secretary Education (E&SE), Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Civil Secretary, Peshawar and others", Service Appeal No. 752/2019, titled "Pio Khan Versus the Secretary Education (E&SE), Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Civil Secretary, Peshawar and others", Service Appeal No. 753/2019, titled "Ghani-uir Rehman Versus the Secretary Education (E&SE), Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Civil Secretary, Peshawar and others", Service

Appeal No.754/2019 tiled "Muhammad Kamal Versus the Secretary Education (E&SE), Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Civil Secretary, Peshawar and others", Service Appeal No. 755/2019 titled "Naeem Ullah Versus the Secretary Education (E&SE), Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Civil Secretary, Peshawar and others", and Service Appeal No. 914/2019 titled "Sher Abbas Versus the Secretary Education (E&SE), Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Civil Secretary, Peshawar and others" as in all the appeals common questions of law and facts are involved.

Brief facts of the case, as given in the memorandum of appeal, are 2. that the appellant was serving against the CT post and had 37 years service at his credit. Vide Notification date 11.09.1997, selection grade in BPS-15 was awarded to him w.e.f 02.01.1997 and his name appeared at serial No. 97/232 of the order and his salary was fixed accordingly. Vide Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Finance Department, Notification No. SO(FR) 10-22(B)/2005 dated 01.10.2007 and Notification No. FD/SO(FR) 10-22/2007 dated 26-01-2008, the post of CT, alongwith other posts, was upgraded to BPS-15. The appellant and his other colleagues who had been brought on the strength of BS 15 much prior to the notification dated 01.10.2007 deserved were entitled to be treated like other staff members either in the shape of promotion to the next stage or in shape of two increments. Different examples mentioned in the appeal include the Senior SST Teachers working against BPS- 17 who were promoted to the post of S.S or Head Master in the same scale (BPS-17),

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but on promotion in the same basic pay scale they were allowed two increments in the shape of one advance increment and the other as premature increment. On another occasion one time upgradation in BPS-16 was awarded to all Elementary School Teachers working against the post carrying Basic Pay Scale 15, who had five years service at their credit. All the Elementary School Teachers possessing five years service were upgraded to BPS- 16 accordingly. They were also allowed two increments in the shape of one next stage and one premature. Being aggrieved from the unfair and discriminatory treatment, the appellant, alongwith his other colleagues, invoked the Constitutional jurisdiction of the Hon'ble Peshawar High Court Bannu Bench in Writ Petition No. 413-B/2016 which was disposed of in the following words:-

"At the very out-set, learned counsel for the petitioner states that his client will be satisfied if the instant writ petition is sent to the concerned department for its treatment as departmental appeal.

Therefore, in the light of above, the instant writ petition is sent to the concerned department/authorities with the direction to treat the same as departmental appeal and decide the same with one (01) month positively, but, strictly in accordance with law.

Disposed of accordingly."

In the light of the order of the Hon'ble Peshawar High Court dated 03.09.2018, the appellant also preferred departmental appeal but the respondents paid no heed to it; hence the instant service appeal.

3. Respondents were put on notice. They did not furnish written reply/comments despite numerous chances. After expiry of last chance, vide order dated 09.09.2020, the appeal was posted to D.B for arguments.

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Vide a later order dated 17.01.2022, another chance was given to the respondents to submit reply, failing which their right was to be struck of. No reply was received on behalf of the respondents. We have heard the learned counsel for the appellant as well as the learned Additional Advocate General for the respondents and perused the case file with connected documents in detail.

4. Learned counsel for the appellant, after presenting the case in detail, argued that the respondents had not treated the appellant in accordance with law, rules and policy on the subject and acted in violation of Article 4 of the Constitution, 1973. He argued that the appellant, and his other colleagues, who had been granted upgradation and selection grade prior to the notification dated 01.10.2007 and 26.01.2008, were entitled for financial benefits in shape of increment/allowance so that they could be equally treated with the promoted/upgraded teachers, who had been promoted/upgraded in the light of notification and who benefited with two increments in the shape of one next stage and one premature. He requested that the appeal might be accepted as prayed for.

5. The learned Additional Advocate General, while rebutting the arguments of learned counsel for the appellant argued that the appellant had already availed the benefit of increment when he was awarded selection grade in BS- 15 and that he was not entitled to any further increment. He requested that the appeal might be dismissed.

6. From the arguments and record presented by the learned counsel for the appellant, it transpires that the appellant was appointed as C.T in the

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respondents department. He was awarded selection grade in 1997. Later on, vide Finance Department's letter dated 01.10.2007, various posts of teachers in the respondents department were upgraded and the post of appellant was also upgraded from BS-9 to BS-15. It is an undisputed fact that when a post is upgraded, it brings financial benefit also in the form of increment. As contended by the appellant, he was deprived of such increment when the post was upgraded and his departmental appeal was rejected on the ground that the letter dated 31.12.2013 of Finance Department did not cover his claim.

7. Learned counsel for the appellant produced a notification dated 04.04.2009 of the Finance Department according to which one special advance increment was allowed to Assistants, Auditors, Senior Clerks and Junior Clerks as well as employees from BS-1 to BS-4 in their upgraded/moved up pay scales that had been allowed to them vide notification dated 28.07.2007. The notification of 04.04.2009 took effect from 01.09.2007. Learned counsel produced another letter of Finance Department dated 31.12.2013 which has been issued as a clarification regarding grant of one special advance increment to the employees holding selection grade prior to upgradation of their posts in Basic Pay Scale already held by them. The letter is reproduced as follows:-

"1. I am directed to refer to this Department's notification No. FD(SR-1)2-4/2008 dated 04.04.2009 and to state that certain queries have been received from different quarters as to whether the employees, who were holding Selection Grade prior to up-gradation of their posts in BPS already held by them, are

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also eligible to the benefit of premature increment on upgradation of their posts.

2. In this connection, the Provincial Government in consultation with Government of Pakistan, Finance Division, has to clarify that one special advance increment is admissible, also to the employees who were holding Selection Grade prior to up-gradation of their posts in BPS already held by them, just as in the case of same scale promotion.

3. This order will take effect from 01.09.2007"

8. In the light of the above quoted letter dated 31.12.2013 of Finance Department, it is clear that the appellant who was holding selection grade prior to his upgradation of post in Basic Pay Scale already held by him, was entitled to one special advance increment on the same analogy as has been provided to the employees of provincial government upon upgradation vide notification dated 04.04.2009 read with notification dated 28.06.2007.

9. The appeal in hand as well as connected appeals are, therefore, partially allowed on the above terms. Costs shall follow the event. Consign.

10. Pronounced in open court in Peshawar and given under our hands and seal of the Tribunal this 21^{st} day of September, 2023.

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Fazle Subhan, P.S

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21st Sept. 2023 01. Mr. Ashraf Ali Khattak, Advocate for the appellant present.
Mr. Fazal Shah Mohmand, Addl. Advocate General for the respondents present. Arguments heard and record perused.

02. Vide our detailed judgment consisting of **06** pages, the appeal in hand is partially allowed. Costs shall follow the event. Consign.

03. Pronounced in open court in Peshawar and given under our hands and seal of the Tribunal this 21st day of September, 2023.

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(SALAH-UD-DIN) Member (J)

Fazle Subhan, P.S