

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA SERVICE TRIBUNAL PESHAWAR

Service Appeal No. 1685/2023

BEFORE: MR. KALIM ARSHAD KHAN ... CHAIRMAN
MRS. RASHIDA BANO ... MEMBER (J)

Mr. Naseeb Rehman, CT (BPS-15) GMS Babra Laaki, District Orakzai.
.... (Appellant)

VERSUS

1. The Secretary Elementary & Secondary Education Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar.
2. The Director Elementary & Secondary Education Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Peshawar.
3. District Education Officer, District Orakzai.
.... (Respondents)

Mr. Noor Muhammad Khattak
Advocate ... For appellant

Mr. Muhammad Jan
District Attorney ... For respondents

Date of Institution.....06.06.2023
Date of Hearing.....08.01.2024
Date of Decision.....08.01.2024

JUDGMENT

Rashida Bano, Member (J): The instant service appeal has been instituted under section 4 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Service Tribunal, Act 1974 with the prayer copied as below:

“On acceptance of this appeal the impugned order dated 19.05.2023 and the appellate order 09.08.2023 may very kindly be set aside and the promotion order dated 10.12.2020 be restored with all back benefits. Any other remedy which this Tribunal deems fit that may also be awarded in favor of the appellant.”



2. Through this judgment we intend to dispose of instant service appeal as well as twenty-three connected service appeals which are given as under:

1. Service Appeal No.1686/2023
2. Service Appeal No.1687/2023
3. Service Appeal No.1688/2023
4. Service Appeal No.1689/2023
5. Service Appeal No.1690/2023
6. Service Appeal No.1691/2023
7. Service Appeal No.1692/2023
8. Service Appeal No.1693/2023
9. Service Appeal No.1694/2023
10. Service Appeal No.1695/2023
11. Service Appeal No.1696/2023
12. Service Appeal No.1697/2023
13. Service Appeal No.1698/2023
14. Service Appeal No.1699/2023
15. Service Appeal No.1700/2023
16. Service Appeal No.1701/2023
17. Service Appeal No.1702/2023
18. Service Appeal No.1703/2023
19. Service Appeal No.1704/2023
20. Service Appeal No.1705/2023
21. Service Appeal No.1706/2023
22. Service Appeal No.1707/2023
23. Service Appeal No.1708/2023

In view of common questions of law and facts, the above captioned appeals are being disposed of by this order.

3. Brief facts leading to filing of the instant appeals are that the appellants were serving as PSTs. That different posts of Certified Teacher (BPS-15) were lying vacant and accordingly, the appellants were given promotion against the said posts vide Notification dated 14.10.2020. That in pursuance of the said notification, they started performing duties in BPS-15. That all of a sudden on 19.05.2023, the said notification was withdrawn by the respondent department.



Feeling aggrieved, they filed departmental appeals which were rejected on 09.08.2023, hence, the instant service appeals.

4. We have heard learned counsel for the appellants and Mr. Muhammad Jan, District Attorney for the respondents and have gone through the record and the proceedings of the case in minute particulars.

5. Learned counsel for the appellants argued that the impugned order dated 19.05.2019 was against law, facts and norms of justice, hence not tenable. He submitted that the appellants had not been treated in accordance with law/rules and as such, they had violated Articles-4 & 25 of the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973. Further submitted that no show cause notice had been served upon the appellants before passing of the impugned order; that no right of defense had been provided to the appellants and under the principle of *Locus Poenitentiae*, the respondents were not duty bound to withdraw the promotion. Lastly, he concluded that no inquiry had been conducted into the matter and the respondents had acted in arbitrary manner, therefore, he requested for acceptance of the instant service appeals.

6. Conversely, learned District Attorney submitted that the appellants had been treated in accordance with law, rules and policy. He submitted that there was no rules/policy of promotion of PST to the post of CT, therefore, the respondents had rightly withdrew the promotion orders. Further submitted that the impugned order was rightly passed and the appellants were treated in accordance with law,



rules and policy in vogue. Therefore, he requested for dismissal of the instant service appeals

7. Perusal of record reveals that appellant was appointed as Primary School Teacher vide order dated 23.11.2009 in Education Department. Sixty posts of Certified Teacher (BPS-15) were lying vacant out of which 36 were allocated to the quota of PST/SPST/PSHT. DPC meeting was held on 14.10.2020 wherein appellant was also recommended for promotion, who accordingly promoted. After promotion, all of a sudden respondent No.3 was asked to withdraw the promotion orders of the appellant vide letter dated 11.04.2023 and resultantly promotion order of the appellant was withdrawn vide order dated 19.05.2023 without any reason. Respondent contended that appellants were mistakenly promoted (who were PST) to the post of CT as under the rules there is no channel of promotion provided for promotion of PST to CT, therefore, promotion order was withdrawn in accordance with rules. Relevant rules are notified on 13.11.2012, wherein appendix to the schedule provides method of recruitment, qualification and other conditions specified reveals that the post of Certified Teacher (G) BPS-15 is mentioned at serial No.13 of the appendix in accordance with which criteria for appointment given in column No.5 the method of recruitment is;

- a) Forty percent by initial recruitment and
- b) Sixty percent by promotion on the basis of seniority cum fitness, from amongst the Primary School Head Teacher with at least five year



service and having qualification prescribed for initial recruitment of Certified Teacher (General). Provided that if no suitable candidate is available amongst the Primary School Head Teacher for transfer then the post will be filled by the promotion on the basis on seniority and fitness, from amongst Senior Primary School Teacher, with at least five year service and having qualification prescribed for initial recruitment of Certified Teacher (General).

8. So as per Service Rules only Primary School Head Teacher with at least five year service having Bachelor Degree or qualification from a recognized University with Certified Teacher Certificate or two year years Associate Degree in Education from a recognized University or Eighteen months Diploma in Education can be promoted to the post of CT (General) and if no suitable PSHT is available then Senior Primary School Teacher on the basis of seniority cum fitness with at least five year service and qualification mentioned above will be promoted in alternative and not PSTs. Admittedly appellants were Primary School Teachers at the time of their promotion to the post of CT vide notification dated 10.12.2020. As per rules mentioned above, PSTs are not entitled for promotion to the post of CT rather as per Serial No. 20 of the appendix, Primary School Teacher will be promoted to the post of Senior Primary School Teacher on the basis of seniority cum fitness and Senior Primary School Teachers on basis of seniority cum fitness will be promoted to the post of Primary School Head Teacher in accordance with Serial No. 19 of the appendix of notification dated 13.11.2012.



9. Appellants being PSTs were erroneously and mistakenly promoted to the post of CT (BPS-15) by the respondents vide notification dated 14.10.2020 which was subsequently realized by the department who reverted the appellants back to the post of PST (BPS-12) from CT (BPS-15) by withdrawing promotion order dated 10.12.2020 vide impugned notification dated 19.05.2023. When in the rules there is no provision/channel for promotion of PST to CT (General) then promotion order of appellants being PSTs to the post of CT (BPS-15) was rightly withdrew by the departments respondent. It is also important to note that appellant served for this intervening period of from 10.12.2020 till 19.05.2022 almost two and half year as Certified Teacher (G), therefore, salaries and benefits paid to the appellants could not be recovered from them being past and close transaction on the principle of '*locus poenitentiae*' and estoppel on the part of respondents. Reliance is placed on 2020 SCMR 188.

10. For what has been discussed above, we are unison to dispose of the instant service appeal as well as connected service appeals with the observation that benefits paid to them could not be recovered from them. Costs shall follow the event. Consign.

11. *Pronounced in open court at Peshawar and given under our hands and seal of the Tribunal on this 8th day of January, 2024.*


(KALIM ARSHID KHAN)
Chairman


(RASHIDA BANO)
Member (J)