

MAHARASHTRA ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL**NAGPUR BENCH NAGPUR****ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 1273/2023 (S.B.)**

Shisheer Eknath Ninawe,
Aged about 39 years,
R/o C/o Care Madhukar Gedam,
Bahate Layout, Ralegaon,
Tahsil Ralegaon, Dist. Yavatmal.

Applicant.

Versus

- 1) The State of Maharashtra,
Through it's Secretary,
Revenue Department,
Mantralaya, Mumbai.
- 2) The Collector,
Yavatmal, District Yavatmal.

Respondents

Shri N.R.Saboo, Id. Advocate for the applicant.

Shri A.P.Potnis, Id. P.O. for the respondents.

Coram :- Hon'ble Shri M.A.Lovekar, Member (J).

JUDGMENT

Judgment is reserved on 15th March, 2024.

Judgment is pronounced on 19th March, 2024.

Heard Shri N.R.Saboo, Id. counsel for the applicant and Shri
A.P.Potnis, Id. P.O. for the Respondents.

2. The applicant was working as Circle Officer at Ralegaon Tahsil. Crime No. 325/2023 was registered against him at Ralegaon Police Station under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act. He was arrested and released on bail. By the impugned order dated 17.08.2023 (A-1) respondent no. 2 placed him under suspension w.e.f. the date of arrest, in contemplation of initiation of departmental enquiry. On 24.11.2023 the applicant filed application (A-3) before respondent no. 2 that his suspension be revoked since period of 90 days therefrom had elapsed. His suspension was, however, not revoked. Hence, this Original Application.

3. It is the contention of the applicant that chargesheet of departmental enquiry is not served on him. His further contention is that chargesheet has not been filed against him in criminal case either. This has not been disputed by the respondents.

4. The applicant has relied on G.R. of G.A.D. of Government of Maharashtra dated 09.07.2019 (A-2). It states:-

शासन निर्णय :-

निलंबित शासकीय अधिकारी / कर्मचाऱ्यांच्या निलंबनाची कारणे व त्यांचे गांभीर्य यानुसार त्यांच्या प्रकरणांचा आढावा घेण्यासंदर्भात शासनाने वेळोवेळी वर संदर्भामध्ये दर्शविल्यानुसार शासन निर्णय निर्गमित केले आहेत. श्री अजयकुमार चौधरी विरुद्ध युनियन ऑफ इंडिया (सिव्हिल अपिल क्र. १९१२/२०१५) मध्ये मा.

सर्वोच्च न्यायालयाने दि. १६/०२/२०१५ रोजी दिलेल्या निर्णयाच्या परिच्छेद १४ मधील आदेश खालीलप्रमाणे आहेत.

We, therefore, direct that the currency of a Suspension Order should not extend beyond three months if within this period the Memorandum of Charges/ Chargesheet is not served on the delinquent officer/employee; if the Memorandum of Charges/Chargesheet is served a reasoned order must be passed for the extension of the suspension. As in the case in hand, the Government is free to transfer the concerned person to any Department in any of its offices within or outside the State so as to sever any local or personal contact that he may have and which he may misuse for obstructing the investigation against him. The Government may also prohibit him from contacting any person, or handling records and documents till the stage of his having to prepare his defence. We think this will adequately safeguard the universally recognized principle of human dignity and the right to a speedy trial and shall also preserve the interest of the Government in the prosecution. We recognize that previous Constitution Benches have been reluctant to quash proceedings on the grounds of delay, and to set time limits to their duration. However, the imposition of a limit on the period of suspension has not been discussed in the prior case law, and would not be contrary to the interests of justice. Furthermore, the direction of the Central Vigilance Commission that pending a criminal investigation departmental proceedings are to be held in abeyance stands superseded in view of the stand adopted by us.

२. मा. सर्वोच्च न्यायालयाने वरीलप्रमाणे दिलेल्या दि. १६/०२/२०१५ च्या निर्णयाचे अनुषंगाने केंद्र सरकारचा दि. २३ ऑगस्ट, २०१६ रोजीचा कार्यालयीन आदेश सोबत जोडला आहे. मा. सर्वोच्च न्यायालयाचा निर्णय व केंद्र सरकारचा कार्यालयीन आदेश पाहता निलंबित शासकीय कर्मचाऱ्यांना ९० दिवसांच्या मुदतीत दोषारोप पत्र बजावून त्यांच्या निलंबनाच्या आढाव्या संदर्भातील तरतुदी सुधारण्याची बाब शासनाच्या विचाराधीन होती.

शासन निर्णय :-

१. या अनुषंगाने शासकीय कर्मचाऱ्यांच्या निलंबनाचा आढावा घेण्यासंदर्भात पुढीलप्रमाणे सूचना देण्यात येत आहेत.

i) निलंबित शासकीय सेवकांच्या ज्या प्रकरणी ३ महिन्यांच्या कालावधीत विभागीय चौकशी सुरु करून दोषारोप पत्र बजावण्यात आले आहे, अशा प्रकरणी निलंबन केल्यापासून ३ महिन्यात निलंबनाचा आढावा घेऊन

निलंबन पुढे चालू ठेवावयाचे असल्यास त्याबाबतचा निर्णय सुस्पष्ट आदेशासह (कारण मिमांसेसह) सक्षम प्राधिकाऱ्याच्या स्तरावर घेण्यात यावा.

ii) निलंबित शासकीय सेवकांच्या ज्या प्रकरणी ३ महिन्यांच्या कालावधीत विभागीय चौकशी सुरु करून दोषारोप पत्र बजावण्यात आले नाही, अशा प्रकरणी मा. सर्वोच्च न्यायालयाचे आदेश पाहता, निलंबन समाप्त करण्याशिवाय अन्य पर्याय राहत नाही. त्यामुळे निलंबित शासकीय सेवकांबाबत विभागीय चौकशीची कार्यवाही सुरु करून दोषारोप पत्र बजावण्याची कार्यवाही निलंबनापासून ९० दिवसांच्या आत काटेकोरपणे केली जाईल याची दक्षता/खबरदारी घेण्यात यावी.

iii) फौजदारी प्रकरणात विशेषतः लाचलुचपत प्रकरणी निलंबित शासकीय सेवकांवर विभागीय चौकशी सुरु करून दोषारोप पत्र बजावणेबाबत आवश्यक तो अभिलेख लाचलुचपत प्रतिबंधक विभागाने संबंधीत प्रशासकीय विभागास उपलब्ध करून देणे आवश्यक राहिल.

या आदेशातील तरतुदींमुळे या विषयावरील संदर्भ १ व २ येथील आदेशांतील तरतुदी या आदेशाच्या मर्यादेत सुधारण्यात आल्या आहेत असे समजण्यात यावे.

5. Having regard to facts of the case and G.R. dated 09.07.2019 the **O.A. deserves to be, and the same is hereby, allowed** in the following terms. Suspension of the applicant stands revoked. Respondent no. 2 shall pass consequential order **within 15 days** from today. No order as to costs.

Member (J)

Dated :-19/03/2024
aps

I affirm that the contents of the PDF file order are word to word same as per original Judgment.

Name of Steno : Akhilesh Parasnath Srivastava.

Court Name : Court of Hon'ble Member (J).

Judgment signed on : 19/03/2024
and pronounced on

Uploaded on : 20/03/2024