

Supreme Court of India

Union Of India & Ors vs Sushil Kumar Paul & Ors on 24 April, 1998

Author: . Nanavati

Bench: G.T. Nanavati, S.P. Kurdukar.

PETITIONER:

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Vs.

RESPONDENT:

SUSHIL KUMAR PAUL & ORS.

DATE OF JUDGMENT: 24/04/1998

BENCH:

G.T. NANAVATI, S.P. KURDUKAR.

ACT:

HEADNOTE:

JUDGMENT:

THE 24TH DAY OF APRIL, 1998 Present:

Hon'ble Mr. Justice G.T. Nanavati Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.P. Kurdukar P.P. Malhotra, Sr.Adv., Rajiv Nanda, Arvind Kumar Sharma, Ms. Sushma Suri, Advs. with him for the appellants. Ms. Sarla Chandra, Adv. for the Respondents.

J U D G M E N T The following Judgment of the Court was delivered: NANAVATI . J.

Delay condoned.

Special leave granted.

We have heard learned counsel for the parties. The only question which arises for consideration in these appeals is whether the Central Administrative Tribunal was right in allowing the application of the respondents directing the appellants to step up their pay so as to make it at par with the pay of B.C. Mishra who was their junior but getting a higher pay.

It is held by the Tribunal that the respondents and Mishra belonged to the same cadre and their pay

scales were also the same in the lower posts and, therefore, they are entitled to the benefit of stepping up . But, what the Tribunal has failed to take into consideration is the Circular dated 4.11.1993 issued by the Government of India, Department of Personnel & Training which clearly provides that the anomaly for granting benefit of stepping up of pay should be directly as a result of the application of fundamental rule 22-C and that if a junior officer draws a higher pay in the lower post either because of advance increments or on any other account then the provision of stepping up would not apply in such a case. Moreover in paragraph 2(c) of the Circular it is, further, provided that if a senior joins the higher post, later than the junior, for whatsoever reason, whereby he draws less pay than the junior, in such a case senior cannot, claim stepping up of pay at par with the junior.

In this case what had happened was that the respondents and Mishra were appointed as typists clerks on different dates but were promoted to the post of Welfare Inspector Grade -III on the same date. Mishra was promoted to Grade II earlier than the respondents on ad hoc basis. He was promoted as Welfare Inspector Grade II on 1.2.1981 on ad hoc basis and worked continuously on the higher post upto 1.1.84 on which date the two respondents and Mishra were promoted as Welfare Inspectors Grade II on regular basis. At that time he was getting a higher pay than the respondents because of his earlier ad hoc promotion. Mishra was again promoted as Welfare Inspector Grade I on ad hoc basis and worked on that post continuously from 28.7.86 to 13.1.93. On 13.1.93 the respondents and Mishra were promoted to Grade I on regular basis. On that date also Mishra was getting a higher pay because of his ad hoc promotion as Welfare Inspector Grade I. It was for that reason that Mishra, even though was a junior, was getting more pay than the respondents. In view of these facts, the Circular governing stepping up of pay issued by the Railway Board and the law laid down by this Court in Union of India & Others Vs. O.P. Saxena (1997 (6) SCC 360) the respondents were not entitled to the benefit of stepping up. The Tribunal, thus committed an error in granting that benefit to the respondents. We , therefore, allow these appeals and set aside the impugned orders of the Tribunal.

No order as to costs.