# BEFORE THE UTTARAKHAND PUBLIC SERVICES TRIBUNAL AT DEHRADUN

# **CONTEMPT PETITION NO. 05/SB/2024**

Gajendra Singh Chauhan.

.....Petitioner

versus

Sri Deependra Kumar Chaudhary, Secretary, Secretariat Administration, Govt. of Uttarakhand, Dehradun.

..... Respondent

## WITH

## **CONTEMPT PETITION NO. 06/SB/2024**

Garjman Rai

.....Petitioner

#### versus

Sri Deependra Kumar Chaudhary, Secretary, Secretariat Administration, Govt. of Uttarakhand, Dehradun.

..... Respondent

## WITH

## CONTEMPT PETITION NO. 07/SB/2024

Satey Singh

.....Petitioner

#### versus

Sri Deependra Kumar Chaudhary, Secretary, Secretariat Administration, Govt. of Uttarakhand, Dehradun.

..... Respondent

## WITH

### **CONTEMPT PETITION NO. 08/SB/2024**

Soban Singh

.....Petitioner

#### versus

Sri Deependra Kumar Chaudhary, Secretary, Secretariat Administration, Govt. of Uttarakhand, Dehradun.

..... Respondent

#### WITH

#### **CONTEMPT PETITION NO. 09/SB/2024**

Harish Chandra Semwal

.....Petitioner

#### versus

Sri Deependra Kumar Chaudhary, Secretary, Secretariat Administration, Govt. of Uttarakhand, Dehradun.

..... Respondent

Present: Dr. N.K. Pant, Advocate, for the Petitioner Sri V.P. Devrani, A.P.O. and Sri S.K. Jain, Advocate, in assistance of the Tribunal

#### **JUDGEMENT**

## Dated: 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2024

## Justice U.C. Dhyani (Oral)

The above noted contempt petitions have been filed by different petitioners against the Secretary, SAD, Govt. of Uttarakhand, for non-compliance of order dated 02.08.2023 in claim petition no. 135/DB/2023 & orders dated 09.08.2023 in claim petitions no. 141/DB/2023, 143/DB/2023, 144/DB/2023, 142/DB/2023 and subsequent orders dated 03.01.2024 in execution

petitions no. 03/SB/2024, 05/SB/2024, 04/SB/2024, 02/SB/2024 & order dated 09.01.2024 in execution petition no. 06/SB/2024.

2. Since factual matrix of the matter and law governing the field remains the same, therefore, these contempt petitions are being disposed of by common judgement and order for the sake of brevity and convenience. Contempt petition no. 05/SB/2024 shall be the leading case.

3. Order dated 02.08.2023 in claim petition no. 135/DB/2023 is reproduced herein below for reference:

"By means of present claim petition, the petitioner seeks the following reliefs:

"(i) Issue an order or direction calling for the record and to direct the respondent to set aside the order no. 614 dated 25-07-2023 as well as pay the pension to the petitioner without further delay along with interest @9% p.a. thereon till the actual payment is made.

(ii) Issue any suitable claim, order of direction which this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case.

(iii) Award the cost of claim petition to the Petitioner."

2. The petitioner is retired Review Officer of Uttarakhand Secretariat. He was an employee of Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Limited (for short, GMVN) before his services were absorbed in Uttarakhand Secretariat under the Absorption Rules, 2002. The petitioner prayed that a sum of Rs. 1,37,477/-, which was deposited/contributed by GMVN during his tenure of service in GMVN, be released to him with interest.

3. In the impugned order dated 25.07.2023 (Annexure: A 1), a reference of Rule 6 (7) of the Uttarakhand Sachivalaya Vayaktik Sahayak, Avar Varg Sahayak, Sahayak Lekhakar, Tankak, Anusevak Ke Padon Per Sammviliyan Niyamwali, 2002 has been given to hold that as per the aforesaid Rules, it is not possible to release employer's contribution (in favour of the petitioner. Prima facie, there appears to be no infirmity in such order.

4. It is the submission of Ld. Counsel for the petitioner that despite taking pension contribution, the employees of GMVN are not being paid pension. It is also the submission of Ld. Counsel for the petitioner that the employees of Uttarakhand Transport Corporation and Nagar Palika Parishad are being paid pension, but the employees of GMVN and KMVN are not being paid the same. 5. Ld. A.P.O. vehemently opposed the maintainability of the claim petition, inter alia, on the ground that it is not a PIL and the controversy raised in the claim petition by Ld. Counsel for the petitioner may be resolved by the Government only by taking a policy decision, in accordance with law.

6. Present petition has precisely been filed for paying pension to the petitioner. According to Ld. A.P.O., services of GMVN employees are not pensionable. They are not entitled to any pension.

7. The claim petition is disposed of by making a request to the respondents to take an appropriate decision, if they so like, whether the employees of GMVN and KMVN should be granted pension or not. 8. The claim petition is disposed of, at the admission stage, with the consent of Ld. Counsel for the parties, by making a request to the respondents to take an appropriate decision, if they so like, on grant or non-grant of pension to the employees of GMVN and KMVN, in accordance with law. No order as to costs."

4. Order dated 03.01.2024 in execution petition no. 03/SB/2024 is reproduced herein below for reference:

"By means of present execution application, petitioner applicant seeks to enforce order dated 02.08.2023, passed by this Tribunal in Claim Petition No. 135/DB/2023, Gajendra Singh Chauhan vs. State & others.

2. The execution application is supported by the affidavit of Sri Gajendra Singh Chauhan, petitioner.

3. The decision rendered by this Tribunal on 02.08.2023, is reproduced herein below for convenience:

"By means of present claim petition, the petitioner seeks the following reliefs:

"(i) Issue an order or direction calling for the record and to direct the respondent to set aside the order no. 614 dated 25-07-2023 as well as pay the pension to the petitioner without further delay along with interest @9% p.a. thereon till the actual payment is made.

(ii) Issue any suitable claim, order of direction which this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper in the circumstances of the case. (iii) Award the cost of claim petition to the Petitioner."

2. The petitioner is retired Review Officer of Uttarakhand Secretariat. He was an employee of Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Limited (for short, GMVN) before his services were absorbed in Uttarakhand Secretariat under the Absorption Rules, 2002. The petitioner prayed that a sum of Rs. 1,37,477/-, which was deposited/contributed by GMVN during his tenure of service in GMVN, be released to him with interest.

3. In the impugned order dated 25.07.2023 (Annexure: A 1), a reference of Rule 6 (7) of the Uttarakhand Sachivalaya Vayaktik Sahayak, Avar Varg Sahayak, Sahayak Lekhakar, Tankak, Anusevak Ke Padon Per Sammviliyan Niyamwali, 2002 has been given to hold that as per the aforesaid Rules, it is not possible to release employer's contribution (in favour of the petitioner. Prima facie, there appears to be no infirmity in such order.

4. It is the submission of Ld. Counsel for the petitioner that despite taking pension contribution, the employees of GMVN are not being paid pension. It is also the submission of Ld. Counsel for the petitioner that the employees of Uttarakhand Transport Corporation and Nagar Palika

Parishad are being paid pension, but the employees of GMVN and KMVN are not being paid the same.

5. Ld. A.P.O. vehemently opposed the maintainability of the claim petition, inter alia, on the ground that it is not a PIL and the controversy raised in the claim petition by Ld. Counsel for the petitioner may be resolved by the Government only by taking a policy decision, in accordance with law.

6. Present petition has precisely been filed for paying pension to the petitioner. According to Ld. A.P.O., services of GMVN employees are not pensionable. They are not entitled to any pension.

7. The claim petition is disposed of by making a request to the respondents to take an appropriate decision, if they so like, whether the employees of GMVN and KMVN should be granted pension or not.

8. The claim petition is disposed of, at the admission stage, with the consent of Ld. Counsel for the parties, by <u>making a request</u> to the respondents to take an <u>appropriate decision</u>, if they so like, on grant or non-grant of pension to the employees of GMVN and KMVN, in accordance with law. No order as to costs.."

[Emphasis supplied]

4. It is the submission of Ld. Counsel for the petitioner that petitioner supplied the copy of judgment dated 02.08.2023 to the respondents on 16.08.2023 (Annexure: 2), but, till date order dated 02.08.2023 has not been complied with by the authority concerned. It is also the submission of Ld. Counsel for the petitioner that casual approach on the part of opposite party(ies)/respondent(s) should not be tolerated and strict direction should be given to them to ensure compliance of such order.

5. In reply, Sri S.K.Jain, Ld. Counsel for GMVN submitted that no direction was given to the respondents to grant pension to the employees of GMVN and KMVN. He further submitted that respondents were requested to take an appropriate decision, if they so like, on grant or non-grant of pension to the employees of GMVN and KMVN. There was no direction as such, therefore, the execution application is not maintainable.

6. The Tribunal agrees with the submission of Sri S.K. Jain, Advocate, that no direction was given to the respondents to take a decision on grant or non-grant of pension to the employees of GMVN and KMVN. Everything was left at the discretion of the respondents.

7. No useful purpose would be served by keeping this execution application pending. The execution application is, accordingly, closed.

8. Respondents are, however, requested to apprise the petitioner with the decision, if any, taken on grant or non-grant of pension to the employees of GMVN and KMVN, to show fairness and transparency in the working of the department.

9. No further application shall be entertained in this matter."

5. Rule 50 of the U.P. Public Services (Tribunal) (Procedure) Rules, 1992, reads as below:

**"50. Initiation of proceedings.—** (1) Any petition, information or motion for action being taken under the Contempt shall, in the first instance, be placed before the Chairman.

(2) The Chairman or the Vice-Chairman or such other Members as may be designated by him of this purpose, shall determine the expediency or propriety of taking action under the Contempt Act."

6. Sri V.P. Devrani, learned A.P.O. and Sri S.K. Jain, learned Counsel for GMVN, assisting the Tribunal submitted that in para 9 of order dated 03.01.2024, the Tribunal had observed that "no further application shall be entertained in this matter." According to Sri V.P. Devrani and Sri S.K. Jain, present contempt petition is not maintainable.

7. In reply, Dr. N.K. Pant, learned Counsel for the petitioner drew attention of the Tribunal towards his letter dated 24.01.2024, which has been addressed to the Secretary, SAD, Govt. of Uttarakhand to comply with the order dated 03.01.2024.

8. Dr. N.K. Pant, Advocate, submitted that he had specifically written to the Secretary, SAD, to comply with para 8 of the decision dated 03.01.2024, which reads as below:

"8. Respondents are, however, requested to apprise the petitioner with the decision, if any, taken on grant or non-grant of pension to the employees of GMVN and KMVN, to show fairness and transparency in the working of the department."

9. Learned Counsel for the petitioner submitted that he is simply pressing the observations made in para 8 of the decision dated 03.01.2024 of the Tribunal, and nothing else.

10. Considering the background of the petition, execution application and above noted facts, the Tribunal does not feel it proper or expedient to take action against the respondent under the Contempt of Courts Act.

11. But, at the same time, the Tribunal reiterates its observations contained in para 8 of the decision dated 03.01.2024 and requests the respondents to apprise the petitioners with the decision, if any, taken on grant or non-grant of pension to the employees of GMVN and KMVN to show fairness and transparency in the working of the department.

12. Contempt petitions thus stand disposed of, at the admission stage.

13. Let copies of this order be placed on the files of contempt petitions no. C-06/SB/2024, C-07/SB/2024, C-08/SB/2024 and C-09/SB/2024.

## (JUSTICE U.C. DHYANI) CHAIRMAN

DATE: 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 DEHRADUN RS