



CGHC010433362025

HIGH COURT OF CHHATTISGARH AT BILASPUR**WPS No. 11820 of 2025****URMILA PANIGRAHI versus STATE OF CHHATTISGARH**

WPS/4969/2026,WPS/12138/2025,WPS/12123/2025,WPS/12107/2025,WPS/11777/2025,WPS/11779/2025,WPS/12091/2025,WPS/12145/2025,WPS/11781/2025,WPS/12088/2025,WPS/11908/2025,WPS/11826/2025,WPS/11821/2025,WPS/11832/2025,WPS/11841/2025,WPS/11859/2025,WPS/11865/2025,WPS/11913/2025,WPS/11917/2025,WPS/11932/2025,WPS/12544/2025

Order Sheet

17/08/2026	Ms. Meena Shastri, Advocate for the Petitioners. Mr. Y.S. Thakur, Addl. AG along with Ms. Apurva Nigam & Ms. Akanksha Verma Dabhadker, Panel Lawyers for the State. Mr. Ishwar Jaiswal, Mr. Dilharan Yadav, Mr. Shashank Pandey, Advocate appears on behalf of Mr. Rahul Tamaskar, Mr. Mukul Chaturvedi, Mr. Anurag Verma, Mr. Himanshu Yadu & Mr. Ujjawal Kumar Gouraha, Advocates for the respective respondents.

Learned counsel for the petitioners submits that, although a specific pleading has been made in paragraph 8.3 of the writ petitions that certain Janpad Panchayats are extending pensionary benefits to their employees, the petitioners have been deprived of the same benefit. It is contended that such differential treatment, in the absence of any justifiable basis, amounts to discrimination. Learned counsel further submits that the aforesaid specific averment has not been controverted either by the concerned Janpad Panchayat or by the State in their respective replies.

Upon perusal of the reply filed by the State, it is evident that the specific averment made by the petitioners in paragraph 8.3 of the writ petitions has not been specifically denied or rebutted. There is also no material placed on record by the respondents to demonstrate that the employees of the Janpad Panchayats referred to by the petitioners are similarly situated but are being extended pensionary benefits under a distinct statutory or legal regime. In the absence of any effective rebuttal to the specific factual assertion of the petitioners, the said averment cannot be brushed aside merely

ashu	on the basis of a general denial. Hence, the Secretary, Department of Panchayat and Rural Development, is directed to file an affidavit explaining as to why some retired employees of the Janpad Panchayats (Urban) are getting pensionary benefits, whereas others are not, and shall also specifically answer the contention raised by the petitioners in paragraph 8.3 of the writ petitions. The affidavit shall be filed within a period of one week. The State counsel shall also be at liberty to file an additional affidavit, if any. List the matter in the week after next. SD/- (Bibhu Datta Guru) Judge
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