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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

\+ W.P.(C) 19810/2025

AJAB SINGH AND ORS .....Petitioners

Through: Mr.D.N. Goburdhan, Sr. Adv. with Mr.Akash Yadav, Ms.Tanya, Ms.Yashi Agarwal, Mr.Tejveer, Mr.Vipin Kumar Bhartim, Mr.Towseef Ahmad Dar & Mr.Prashant Gupta, Advs.

versus

UNION OF INDIA AND ORS .....Respondents

Through: Nemo.

CORAM:
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE NAVIN CHAWLA
HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE MADHU JAIN

O R D E R

% **24.12.2025**

CM APPL. 82711/2025 (Exemption)

1. Allowed, subject to all just exceptions.

W.P.(C) 19810/2025 & CM APPL. 82707/2025

2. This petition has been filed by the petitioners challenging the Order dated 19.12.2025 passed by the learned Central Administrative Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi (hereinafter referred to as the 'Tribunal') in O.A. No. 3962/2025, titled ***Ajab Singh v. Revenue***, whereby *interim* relief has been granted in favour of the petitioners to the limited extent that any promotion to the post of Superintendent of Central GST shall be subject to the outcome of the O.A.

3. The learned senior counsel for the petitioners submits that by Orders dated 01.07.2019 and 22.10.2019, the respondents sought to revoke the promotions granted to the petitioner to the post of Inspector (Central Excise and GST) since 01.04.2017. The said orders were challenged by the petitioners before the learned Tribunal by way of O.A. Nos. 2057/2019 and 2977/2019 respectively. By an *interim* Order dated 14.11.2019, the following *interim* protection was granted to the petitioners:

> *"Accordingly, respondents are directed that in reference to letters dated 01.07.2019 and 22.10.2019, a status quo as of date shall be maintained in respect of applicants herein, till the next date of hearing."*

4. The respondents issued a draft seniority list dated 16.06.2025, which was thereafter finalized on 03.07.2025, wherein the petitioners were placed at various serial numbers. However, by way of a Corrigendum No. II/(39)/OTH/96/2025-CA-O/O PR COMMR-CGST-DELHI (N) dated 31.07.2025, issued by the Joint Commissioner (CCA), CGST, Delhi Zone, the respondents added the following note to the final seniority list:

> *"Promotions of Officers in the grade of Inspector reflecting in this Seniority list from Sl. Nos. from 923 to 926 and 928 to 1020 and 1026 to 1049 are at present irregular in light of Board's letter F.No. A.32018/37/2017-Ad.IIIA dated 01.07.2019. All the Officers have also been issued notice vide letter C.No. II-3(156)CCA/EA/2019 dated 22.10.2019 with regard to conducting review DPCs.*
> *Further, the issue of their irregular promotion to the grade of Inspector is also before the Hon'ble CAT, Delhi in OA No. 2057/2019 filed by Sh. Deepak Sharma & Others. In this*

> *regard, the Hon'ble CAT, on hearing held on 14.11.2019, has directed to maintain a status quo in respect of applicants."*

5. He submits that, on basis of the Corrigendum dated 31.07.2025, a DPC was held on 10.08.2025, which was a finding and pursuant thereto juniors to the petitioners were promoted. The same was immediately challenged by the petitioners by filing appropriate applications before the learned Tribunal.

6. While the said applications were pending adjudication, the petitioners were informed that another DPC was likely to be held in the coming week. This compelled the petitioners to file another M.A. before the learned Tribunal, pursuant to which the present Impugned Order has been passed.

7. He submits that the respondents, by their actions, are not only violating the *ad-interim* Order dated 14.11.2019, but are also attempting to render the O.A. filed by the petitioners infructuous by creating third-party rights.

8. Issue notice to the respondents through all permissible modes, including *dasti*, returnable on 15th January, 2026.

9. Having considered the submissions made by the learned senior counsel for the petitioners, we are of the opinion that once the reversion of the petitioners from the post of Inspector (Central Excise and GST) has been stayed and the respondents have been directed to maintain *status quo* with respect to the petitioners, the Corrigendum dated 31.07.2025 issued to the final seniority list dated 03.07.2025 may not be sustainable.

10. Be that as it may, the respondents must maintain the *status quo*

with respect to further promotions, especially keeping in view the fact that the O.A. itself has been listed for final hearing before the learned Tribunal on 29.01.2026.

11. Accordingly, the respondents are restrained from holding further DPCs on the basis of the seniority list dated 03.07.2025, read with the Corrigendum dated 31.07.2025, till further orders of this Court.

12. *Dasti.*

NAVIN CHAWLA, J

MADHU JAIN, J

DECEMBER 24, 2025/***rv***/DG