

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
WRIT PETITION NO. 16116 OF 2023**

Sonali Ashok More & Anr.

....Petitioners

Versus

The State of Maharashtra & Anr.

....Respondents

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Mr. Chetan G. Patil (through Video Conferencing) a/w. Mr. Mandar Bagkar, Advocates for the Petitioners.

Mr Aditya R. Deolekar – AGP for State (R-1 to R-3) a/w. Dr. Ganpat More, Deputy Director of Education Pune (R-3).

**CORAM : RAVINDRA V. GHUGE &
ABHAY J. MANTRI, JJ.
DATE : 08th JANUARY, 2026**

P.C. :-

1. On 07.01.2026, we had passed the following order :

1. *For two years, the affidavit in reply has not been filed by the State. By an order dated 19th November 2025, we recorded that a last chance was granted to the State, and the matter was part-heard. Even then, the affidavit in reply has not been filed.*
2. *This matter was on board on 28th November 2025. Due to paucity of time, it was adjourned. Again, on 09th December 2025, due to paucity of time, the matter was adjourned. Still, the reply has not been filed.*
3. *In view of the above, the learned AGP desires to take instructions.*
4. *At the request of the learned AGP, list this Petition, in the same category, on 8th January, 2026.*

2. Today, the learned Additional Government Pleader submits that in so far as the 8 sanctioned posts as per the Staffing Pattern is concerned, a Corrigendum would be issued to the Annexure – ‘A’ appended to the G.R. dated 15.02.2021 and the sanctioned posts wrongly mentioned as five would be corrected to eight. This is reflected from Clause 5 of the communication issued by Respondent No. 4, dated 07.01.2026. In so far as Clause 4 is concerned, the learned Additional Government Pleader points out a communication dated 07.01.2026 addressed by the Administrative Officer, Education Department (Primary) Pune, Municipal Corporation, addressed to the Divisional Deputy Director of Education, Pune, that there is some issue with regard to the Staffing Pattern showing 14 sanctioned posts. According to the Administrative Officer, the document that indicated 14 sanctioned posts, is a subject matter of investigation.

3. The communication dated 07.01.2026, issued by Respondent No. 4, is marked as ‘X-1’ for identification. The communication dated 07.01.2026, issued by the Administrative Officer, is marked as ‘X-2’ for identification.

4. In view of the above, it has become imperative for the State to file an Affidavit-in-Reply, especially with regard to the issue of a suspicious document which is referred to in 'X-2'. It is in these peculiar facts and circumstances, that we are granting one more chance to the Respondent/State to file the Affidavit-in-Reply on or before **21st January, 2026**. Copy of the Reply shall be served upon the learned Advocate for the Petitioner. If desired, a Rejoinder Affidavit may be filed on or before **30th January 2026**.

5. List this Petition for hearing on the 'Urgent Supplementary Board' on **03rd February, 2026**.

(ABHAY J. MANTRI, J.)

(RAVINDRA V. GHUGE, J.)