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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED: 18-08-2026

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR JUSTICE S. M. SUBRAMANIAM

AND

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE KRISHNASWAMY GOVINDARAJAN

WP Nos. 37629 & 37634 of 2024
and
WMP Nos. 40668 & 40680 of 2024

1. The Union of India
   Rep. by The General Manager,
   Southern Railway, Park Town,
   Chennai-600 003.

2. Senior Divisional Personal Officer
   Chennai Division, Southern Railway,
   Chennai-600 003.

..Petitioner(s)

Vs

1. The Central Administrative Tribunal
   rep. by its Registrar,
   Chennai.

2. G K Muthuramalingam,
   Junior Clerk
   Office Sr. DSC/Chennai,
   Southern Railway,
   Chennai.

..Respondent(s)

Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India to call for the records pursuant to the impugned proceedings of the respondent No.1 Tribunals order in OA/ 310/ 01942/ 2016 dated 20.03.2024 to quash the same.

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W.P.No.37634 of 2024

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WP No. 37629 of 2024

For Petitioner(s): Mr.A Kumaraguru

For Respondent(s): R1- Tribunal
R2 - No appearance

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COMMON ORDER

(Order of the Court was made by S.M.Subramaniam J.)

The matter was listed for hearing on 12.06.2026 and 21.07.2026. Again, it is posted today for final hearing. Notice served and the name of the respondents are printed in the cause list. None appeared for the respondents. Thus, the writ petitions are taken up for final hearing.

2. Under assail is the orders of the Central Administrative Tribunal, Chennai Bench, dated 20.03.2024 passed in O.A.No.310/01942/2016 & O.A.No.310/01896/2016.

3. Union of India preferred the present writ petitions. The respondents were initially recruited to the post of Constable in Railway Protection Force and de-categorised on account of medical reasons. The Medical Board declared the respondents, not fit to perform the duties attached to the Uniform Services and consequently, the administration provided an alternate employment to the post of Junior Clerk.

4. Admittedly, the respondents joined as Junior Clerk on 22.08.2016. The next avenue for promotion is to the post of Superintendent. The requisite qualification prescribed as per the Service

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Rules is seven years experience in the post of Junior Clerk to participate in the selection process. The respondents were not permitted to participate in the selection process and they have filed the Original Applications before the Central Administrative Tribunal. The Central Administrative Tribunal, allowed the respondents to participate in the selection process. But the respondents failed in the selection process conducted for promotion to the post of Superintendent. Not stopped with that, the respondents filed another Original Application before the Central Administrative Tribunal, challenging the order dated 18.11.2016.

5. Perusal of the said order would show that the applications submitted by the respondents were not forwarded on account of the fact that they were medically de-categorised by Railway Protection Force and they were absorbed in the Ministerial Cadre on 22.08.2016. Since they have not completed seven years of minimum service required to participate in the selection for promotion to the post of Superintendent, their applications were not considered.

6. This Court is of the considered view that the requisite qualification provided under the Service Rules for promotion need not be dispensed with. In the present case, the respondents were recruited as Constable in Railway Protection Force and de-categorised on medical

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reasons and provided with an alternate post to the cadre of Junior Clerk.

7. Pertinently, the respondents joined in the post of Junior Clerk on their own volition accepting the bottom seniority and filed an undertaking to that effect in the Department. Thus, they cannot turn around and claim promotion even before completion of the requisite experience in the post of Junior Clerk. The entire claim made out by the respondents are misconceived and thus, this Court is of the considered view that the grant of relief is running counter to the minimum requisite qualification required for promotion to the post of Superintendent as contemplated under the Service Rules.

8. For all the above reasons, the orders of the Central Administrative Tribunal dated 20.03.2024, are set aside. Accordingly, the Writ Petitions are allowed. No costs. Consequently, connected miscellaneous petitions are closed.

(S.M.S.,J.) (K.G.R.,J.)
18-08-2026

Index: Yes/No
Speaking/Non-speaking order
Neutral Citation: Yes/No

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To

The Registrar,
Central Administrative Tribunal
Chennai.

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