

Jai Singh Verma vs. State of Himachal Pradesh and others

CWP No. 1979 of 2024

29.10.2025 Present Mr. Daleep Singh Kaith, Advocate, for the petitioners.

Mr. Rajan Kahol, Mr. Vishal Panwar, Additional Advocate Generals with Mr. Ravi Chauhan and Mr. Anish Banshtu, Deputy Advocate Generals, for the respondent/State.

Mr. Vijay Kumar Arora, Senior Advocate with Ms. Godawari and Mr. Gaurav Kumar, Advocates, for respondent Nos. 2 and 3.

Pursuant to order dated 17.09.2025, Mr. Kamlesh Kumar Pant, ACS, Forest, Mr. Sanjay Sood, PCCF-cum-MD, HPSFDC and Mr. Vijay Wardhan, Special Secretary (Finance) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh have come present. Officers present in Court state that enhanced gratuity already stands released for the period starting from 29th March, 2018 onwards, but issue with regard to enhancement of gratuity of the petitioners including all the employees retired between 01.01.2016 to 28.03.2018 though was approved by the Board of Directors, but same has not been approved by the Finance Department on the ground that Payment of Gratuity Act itself provides for revision w.e.f. 29th March, 2018.

While placing on record instructions dated 29.10.2025, issued under the signatures of Special Secretary (Finance) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, Mr. Rajan Kahol, learned Additional Advocate General, states that now matter has been referred back to the Department of Forest for placing the same before the Board of Directors for final decision.

Though, having carefully perused amendment carried out in the payment of Gratuity Act, there appears to be merit in the afore contention of Finance Department, but before ascertaining the correctness of the same, it would be apt to afford an opportunity to the Finance Department to file detailed reply, so that issue otherwise sought to be decided in the instant proceedings, is adjudicated for all times to come.

On the oral request of learned counsel for the petitioners, Secretary (Finance) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh is impleaded as party respondent. Registry is directed to carry out necessary correction in the memo of the parties on the basis of the amended memo of parties to be filed by learned counsel for the petitioner within a period of one week.

Notice to newly impleaded respondent. Mr. Rajan Kahol, learned Additional Advocate General, appears and waives service of notice on behalf of newly impleaded respondent. He prays for and is granted four weeks' time to file reply.

List on 4.12.2025, on which date, Officers need not to come present.

(Sandeep Sharma)
Judge

October 29, 2025
(shankar)