



IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU

DATED THIS THE 23RD DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

BEFORE

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B M SHYAM PRASAD

WRIT PETITION NO. 5083 OF 2026 (GM-CC)

BETWEEN:

1. SRIDHAR
S/O BYRAPPA
AGE ABOUT 44 YEARS,
OCC: MECHANIST,
R/O NO.188, 2ND MAIN,
MARUTHINAGAR,
BAPUJINAGAR,
BANGALORE - 560 026
2. RAJESHWARI
D/O BYRAPPA
W/O PUTTAMADA
AGE ABOUT 42 YEARS
SR. PERSONAL SECRETARY GM
BEL, R/O NO.448, F-01,
5TH MAIN CROSS, KCHS LAYOUT,
NAGADEVNAHALLI,
BANGALORE - 56
3. HEMANTH KUMAR
S/O BYRAPPA
AGE ABOUT 46 YEARS,
OCC: AGM KPC,
R/O NO.188, 2ND MAIN,
MARUTHINAGAR,
BAPUJINAGAR,





BANGALORE - 560 026

...PETITIONERS

(BY SRI. PRAVEEN KUMAR RAIKOTE., ADVOCATE)

AND:

THE DISTRICT CASTE
VERIFICATION COMMITTEE
BY ITS SECRETARY
4TH MAIN ROAD,
SAMPANGIRAMNAGAR,
BANGALORE - 560 027.

...RESPONDENT

(BY SRI. C. JAGADEESH, SPL COUNSEL)

THIS WRIT PETITION IS FILED UNDER ARTICLES
226 AND 227 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA
PRAYING TO QUASH THE IMPUGNED NOTICE AT ANNEX-
C TO C2 AND ALL FURTHER PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT
VIDE NO. JI.SA. KA.AA/BENG(N)/JAPA/2019-20 DATED
02.02.2026 ISSUED BY THE RESPONDENT.

THIS PETITION, COMING ON FOR PRELIMINARY
HEARING, THIS DAY, ORDER WAS MADE THEREIN AS
UNDER:

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B M SHYAM PRASAD



ORAL ORDER

The petitioners have the advantage of Validity Certificates issued in the year 2001/2010 and these Validity Certificates have been produced as Annexures - A to A2. The petitioners' grievance is with the notices issued by the respondent under the Karnataka Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (Reservation of Appointment) Act, 1990 [*as per Annexures - C to C2*]. The respondent has issued notices calling upon the petitioners to be present for an inquiry into the Validity Certificates. Mr. Praveen Raikote, the learned counsel for the petitioners, and Mr. C. Jagadeesh, the learned Standing Counsel for the respondent, are heard.

The petitioners' case hinges on the assertion that the Verification Committee becomes *functus officio* once a Validity Certificate is issued and it



cannot enter into an inquiry once again. The petitioners rely upon the judgment of a Division Bench of this Court in W.A.No.604/2007 which is decided on 26.11.2012. The Division Bench's observations on the Verification Committee becoming *functus officio* the moment it issues a Validity Certificate reads as under.

"4. The Caste Verification Committee being the quasi judicial authority should follow the rules. Unless the review is provided by the statute, the power of review should not be enforced. In the matter on hand, on the basis of the evidence adduced in the enquiry, at the first instance, the Caste Verification Committee by the order dated 8.6.1998 held that the appellant belongs to 'Gonda' caste and that the Caste Certificate issued by the Tahsildar is valid and consequently issued validity certificate on 8.6.1998. On the basis of the same, the disciplinary proceedings against the appellant were dropped by the order dated 15.7.1998 by the bank. By an order dated 4.8.1998, the appellant was promoted as an officer with retrospective effect. Thereafter he



was promoted as Manager in the Middle Management Grade-II. Thereafter one more enquiry was held against the appellant based on another complaint. Neither the Act nor the rules made thereunder bestow any power of review on the committee. The committee becomes functus officio, the moment it ordered on 8.6.1998 that the appellant belongs to 'gonda' community and issued Validity Certificate. Thereafter the committee did not have any authority in law whatsoever to pass the impugned order after five years. Even otherwise, the subsequent proceedings based on the 2nd complaint are not only without authority of law, but are without holding enquiry."

In the light of the afore, the petitioner must succeed as against the impugned notices. Hence, the petition is allowed quashing the impugned notices [as per Annexures - C to C2].

Sd/-
(B M SHYAM PRASAD)
JUDGE

RB