

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR
AT IMPHAL**

**WP(C) No. 858 of 2024 with
MC(WP(C) No. 790 of 2024**

Thokchom Inaoton Singh & 37 Ors.

.....*Petitioner/s*

- Versus -

State of Manipur & 250 Ors.

.... *Respondent/s*

BEFORE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE A. GUNESHWAR SHARMA

Order

18.12.2024

[1] Heard Mr. L. Rajesh, learned counsel for the petitioners.

[2] Issue notice to the main petition as well as application for interim relief.

[3] Mr. Shyam Sharma, learned G.A. accepts notice on behalf of respondent Nos. 1 & 2.

[4] Mr. L. Rajesh, learned counsel for the petitioners, submits that service of summons with respect to respondent Nos. 3 to 251 be served through respondent No. 2 i.e. Director General of Police, Manipur.

[5] Mr. Shyam Sharma, learned G.A., objects to the submission that it will be proper for the respondent No. 2 accept notice on behalf of the private respondents.

[6] In the circumstances, Mr. L. Rajesh, learned counsel for the petitioners, makes an oral submission that he may be permitted to

publish the summons to the private respondent Nos. 3 to 251 by publication in newspaper.

[7] In the interest of justice and in order to avoid delay the matter, the oral prayer is allowed.

[8] The petitioners are directed to publish summons to private respondent Nos. 3 to 251 by publication in two newspapers, one in English and one in Manipuri for two consecutive days and submit affidavit of proof of service.

[9] Learned G.A. prays for two weeks' time for filing counter affidavit.

[10] Mr. L. Rajesh, learned counsel for the petitioners, submits that the impugned order of keeping the Havildars of MR en block senior to the Havildars of IRB is without any basis as the petitioners as well as private respondents were appointed by the common recruitment and the seniority for direct recruit have to be fixed as per merit list or in terms of relevant rules. It is prayed that the final seniority list dated 21.09.2022 be stayed during the pendency of the writ petition.

[11] Learned G.A. submits that the prayer for interim relief will be considered on the next date as the petitioners approached this Court after lapse of two years.

[12] This Court is of the opinion that it will be sufficient if a direction is issued that the consideration for promotion from Havildar to Jemadar may be done as per merit list, if any or in terms of the applicable rules.

[13] Any promotion made during the pendency of the writ petition shall be subject to the outcome of this writ petition.

[14] List this case on 31.01.2025.

[15] Furnish a copy of this order to the learned counsel appearing for all the parties.

JUDGE

Kh. Joshua Maring