



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

W.P.(C) No.4900 of 2017

Deepak Kumar Sethi and others* *Petitioner(s)

Mr. Sameer Kumar Das, Advocate

-versus-

State of Odisha and others* *Opp. Party(s)

Mr. Partha Sarathi Nayak, AGA
Mr. Rama Krishna Bisoi, Advocate
(For opposite party No.2)

CORAM:

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S.K. SAHOO
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S. S. MISHRA

Order No.

ORDER
14.11.2025

30. This Matter Is Taken Up Through Hybrid Arrangement
(Video Conferencing/Physical Mode).

This writ petition has been filed by six petitioners for quashing the letter dated 27.02.2017 so also the letter dated 10.03.2017 under Annexures-9 and 10 respectively and for a direction to the opposite parties to count the Copyist period of services of the petitioners from 30.09.2003 to 29.06.2008 towards qualifying service for the purpose of grant of RACP with effect from 30.09.2013, *inter alia*, for a further direction to the opposite parties to calculate the differential arrears of the petitioners and to pay the same to them within a stipulated period.

In the writ petition, the averments have been taken



that as per the Rules of the State Government, an employee after completing 15 years of service in one grade is entitled to Time Bound Advancement (TBA) Scale of pay and the same provision is made in a different nomenclature for Assured Career Progression (ACP) under Orissa Revised Scale of pay (ORSP) Rules, 2008. An employee became eligible for ACP on completion of 15, 25 and 30 years of service in one cadre/grade. However, it was modified by the State Government in the resolution dated 06.02.2013 by granting Revised Assured Career Progression (RACP) on completion of 10, 20 and 30 years of service in one cadre/grade. The order of the Government dated 06.02.2013 has been annexed as Annexure-6 to the writ petition.

Mr. Das, learned counsel for the petitioners has brought on record by way of further affidavit, which is dated 04.09.2025, in which he has annexed the resolution of the Government of Odisha, Finance Department dated 13.02.2025, wherein the words "***in a single cadre***" mentioned in first sentence of paragraph-1 of the Finance Department resolution No.3560/F dated 06.02.2013 was deleted.

Learned counsel for the petitioners further argued that in view of such deletion, since the petitioners were the Copyist and as per the Orissa High Court (Conditions of Service of Staff) Rules, 1963 (for short Rules, 1963), the Copyist Post also comes within the Group-C Cadre, at this juncture, there is no difficulty in granting the relief sought



for to the petitioners.

However, in the counter affidavit filed on behalf of the opposite party No.2, it is mentioned that the appointment of the petitioners as Copyist was in an ex-cadre post. In reply to such counter affidavit filed by the opposite party No.2, the petitioners have filed rejoinder affidavit and also an additional counter affidavit was filed on behalf of the opposite party No.2, in which, in paragraph-8, it has been mentioned that the posts of Remunerated Copyist and copyist still exist in the establishment of Orissa High Court and Copyist are absorbed in the post of Junior Assistant/ASO.

It is contented that in view of the Rules, 1963, there is no anomaly that the petitioners, who were appointed as Copyist, were coming within the Group-C cadre.

Put up this matter on 28th November, 2025.

In the meantime, learned counsel for the State shall obtain instruction and clarify this aspect on the next date of hearing.

(S.K. Sahoo)
Judge

(S.S. Mishra)
Judge