



IN THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA AT CUTTACK

W.P.(C) No.13431 of 2026

Snehaprava Mohapatra

.....

Petitioner

Represented By Adv. –
Mr. Avijit Mishra

-versus-

State of Odisha and another

.....

Opposite Parties

Represented By Adv. –

Mr. Aurobinda Mohanty,
ASC

CORAM:

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ADITYA KUMAR MOHAPATRA

ORDER

01.05.2026

Order No.

01. 1. This matter is taken up through Hybrid mode.
2. Heard the learned counsel for the Petitioner as well as the learned Additional Standing Counsel appearing for the State-Opposite Parties. Perused the writ petition as well as the documents annexed thereto.
3. By filing the present writ petition, the Petitioner has made the following reliefs;-

“Under these facts and circumstances it is most humbly prayed therefore that this Hon'ble Court may graciously be pleased to direct the opp. parties to issue order of promotion in favour of the petitioner to the post of Deputy Director, TE & SCERT, Odisha, Department of School and Mass Education Department, pursuant to decision of Selection Committee dated 09.01.2024, approval of opp. party no.1 dated 14.10.2024 at noting no.34 and approval of the Minister concerned on 18.10.2024 at noting no.35 in file no. SCERT-OE-ESTT-0017-2021, in an early date.



And in the alternative pass any other order/orders as deem fit and proper in this case.”

4. Learned for the Petitioner, at the outset, contended that the Petitioner was initially selected by following due procedure of selection and was appointed as a Teacher Educator on 31.05.1997 and posted at DIET, Kalahandi at Bhawanipatna. Thereafter, on 13.08.2003 the Petitioner was issued a fresh appointment letter by the SCERT and she was posted at DIET, Khordha. While continuing as such, the Opposite Party No.2 published a provisional gradation list of all Teacher Educators and objections were invited thereto. Accordingly, the final gradation list was prepared keeping the name of the Petitioner at Serial No.1 in the said gradation list. He further contended that by virtue of final gradation list, which was published on 09.12.2011, the Petitioner was promoted to the rank of Senior Teacher Educator along with others. He further submitted that the Petitioner continued to work in the post of Senior Teacher Educator for almost 10 years and while continuing at DIET, Nayagarh, she was promoted to the post of Principal in the Level-12 vide Notification No.25447 dated 29.12.2021 of the Government of Odisha in School & Mass Education Department.

5. Learned counsel for the Petitioner, at this juncture, contended that while the Petitioner was continuing as a Principal of DIET, Kalahandi at Bhawanipatna, she was transferred and posted as Assistant Director, TE & SCERT vide Notification No.3225 dated 10.01.2022 of the Government of Odisha in School & Mass Education Department. At the relevant point of time, a DPC meeting was convened to consider the promotion of Senior Teacher Educators and Assistant Directors. Accordingly, the committee recommended Senior Teacher Educators for promotion to the rank of Principal in DIETs of State and Assistant



Directors in the Directorate of TE&SCERT, Odisha, Bhubaneswar. The committee also cleared the name of 3 others in view of the consequential vacancies likely to arise later on in the year due to retirement of some of the Government officers, who were working in the post of Deputy Director. Accordingly, the DPC in its meeting held on 09.01.2024 recommended the name of the Petitioner for promotion to the post of Deputy Director, TE& SCERT. Such recommendation of the DPC was also approved by the Opposite Party No.1 on 14.10.2024 and thereafter by the concerned Hon'ble Minister on 18.12.2024, as is evident from the noting which has been annexed to the present writ petition,.

6. The grievance of the Petitioner in the present writ petition is that although the name of the present Petitioner has been recommended for promotion and appointed as Deputy Director in the Directorate, however such recommendation of the DPC, which has been approved by the Government, has not been acted upon. Being aggrieved by such inaction of the Opposite Parties, the Petitioner has approached this Court by filing the present writ petition.

7. In course of his argument, learned counsel for the Petitioner submitted that in a similar matter involving Teacher Educators, one Debasmita Chakra, who had earlier approached this Court by filing W.P.(C) No.32077 of 2025. This Court, after a close scrutiny of the note sheet which was produced in a sealed cover, disposed of such writ petition vide order dated 12.02.2026 by directing the Opposite Parties to appoint the Petitioner in the post of Principal of DIET while implementing the decision of the DPC as approved by the Government. In such view of the matter, learned counsel for the Petitioner contended that since the name of the Petitioner has been recommended by the DPC and the same has been approved by the Government, a similar direction



be given in the case of the Petitioner for appointment as Deputy Director against the vacancy taking into consideration her seniority.

8. Learned counsel for the State, on the other hand, contended that he has no specific instruction in the matter. He further submitted that the Petitioner has already approached the Opposite Party No.1 by filing a detailed representation on 09.04.2026. Therefore, in the event no final decision has been taken on the representation of the Petitioner and it is found that the name of the Petitioner has already been recommended in the DPC and the same has been approved by the Government as claimed by the Petitioner, he will have no objection in the event this Court directs the Opposite Party No.1 to consider the case of the Petitioner keeping in view the recommendation of the DPC and dispose of the same within a stipulated period of time.

9. Having regard to the submissions made by the learned counsels appearing for the respective parties, on a careful examination of the background facts of the present case, further on a careful scrutiny of the documents annexed to the writ petition, particularly the recommendation of the DPC and subsequent approval thereof by the Government, this Court is of the view that nothing survives in the present writ petition to be adjudicated.

10 In such view of the matter, the present writ petition is disposed of by directing the Opposite Party No.1-the Commissioner-cum-Secretary, School & Mass Education Department, Government of Odisha, Bhubaneswar to consider and dispose of the representation of the Petitioner dated 09.04.2026 at Annexure-11 keeping in view the recommendation of the DPC and subsequent approval thereof with regard to the promotion of the present Petitioner to the post of Deputy



Director, as expeditiously as possible, preferably within a period of four weeks from the date of production of a copy of this order. It is further directed that in the event the Opposite Party No.1, on verification, concludes that the DPC has indeed recommended the name of the Petitioner for promotion to the post of Deputy Director and the same has been subsequently approved, then necessary follow up steps be taken to ensure that the recommendation of the DPC is implemented by the Government as expeditiously as possible. Any decision so taken by the Opposite Party No.1 be communicated to the Petitioner within ten days thereafter.

11. With the aforesaid observation and direction, the writ petition stands disposed of.

(Aditya Kumar Mohapatra)
Judge

Debasis