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**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

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Date of Decision : **08.07.2026**

SANJEEV KUMAR BHANDARI AND ANOTHER

.....Petitioners

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB AND ANOTHER

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE KULDEEP TIWARI

Present : Mr. Hitesh Hooda, Advocate,
for the petitioners.

Mr. Sahil R. Bakshi, AAG, Punjab.

KULDEEP TIWARI, J.(Oral)

1. Through the instant petition, filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, a prayer is made for issuance of a direction upon the respondents to grant an opportunity to the petitioners to participate in the selection process of selecting the vacant stations falling in their respective districts and to allot them a new station on the same terms and conditions from the date of initial joining with all consequential benefits with all consequential reliefs.

2. Learned counsel for the petitioners submits that the petitioners were given promotion from Master cadre to Lecturer Cadre in

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the year 2024, and thereafter, they were offered a list of few selective schools, for the purpose of their posting accordingly. It is further contended that the schools included in the said list are situated at a distance ranging from approximately 25-40 kilometres from the respective homes of the petitioners.

3. The case of the petitioners, as set up before this Court, is that despite the availability of vacancies in schools situated near to their respective home, the said schools were not included in the list offered to them for exercising their option for posting.

4. The grievance which has impelled the petitioners to approach this Court is that certain Lecturers, who stand on the same footing as the petitioners, having also promoted in the year 2024, were afforded a fresh opportunity in 2025–2026 to re-exercise their choice of station, and pursuant thereto, they were allotted stations situated nearer to their respective places of residence, whereas no such opportunity was extended to the petitioners.

5. The main grievance of the petitioners, at this stage, is that they served a legal notice dated 08.06.2026 (Annexure P-12), setting out the difficulties being faced by them, and seeking redressal of the same. However, despite the lapse of considerable time, no decision has been taken thereon by the competent authority till date.

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6. It is contended that, as per the Litigation Policy of the State of Punjab, the authority concerned, being seized of the matter, is required to decide the representation/application/legal notice within a period of six weeks. However, despite the expiry of the stipulated period, no decision has been taken thereon till date.

7. On the other hand, Mr. Sahil R. Bakshi, AAG, Punjab, who is present in Court, on an advance notice, submits that he has no objection, if a direction is passed upon respondents, to decide the legal notice (*supra*), in a time bound manner.

8. Learned counsel for the petitioners submits that, in view of the ongoing transfer drive, the vacant posts in the concerned schools are likely to be filled before 15.07.2026. Therefore, he prays that the petitioners's legal notice be decided as expeditiously as possible.

9. In view of the aforesaid, and without expressing any opinion on the merits of the case, this Court deems it appropriate to direct the respondents to consider and decide the legal notice (*supra*) by passing a reasoned and speaking order, after affording the petitioners an adequate opportunity of hearing, well before **15.07.2026**.

10. It goes without saying that in case the respondents, fail to pass a speaking order within the stipulated time period, the petitioners would be at liberty to get the instant petition revived, by filing an apposite application.



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11. Learned State counsel is directed to forthwith communicate the aforesaid directions to the competent respondent-authorities to ensure due compliance thereof.

12. **Disposed of** accordingly.

13. All pending application(s), if any, also stand **disposed of** accordingly.

July 08, 2026
dharamvir

(KULDEEP TIWARI)
JUDGE

Whether speaking/reasoned.	:	Yes/No
Whether Reportable.	:	Yes/No