

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

CIVIL APPEAL NO(s). 1524-1525 OF 2005

INDERJIT SINGH & ORS.

Appellant (s)

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB & ORS.

Respondent(s)

(With office report)

WITH

Civil Appeal NO. 1515-1516 of 2005

Civil Appeal NO. 1517-1519 of 2005

(With office report)

Date: 13/04/2010 These Appeals were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE MARKANDEY KATJU

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE A.K. PATNAIK

For Appellant(s)
In CA 1524-1525/05
& for respondent(s)
in other appeals

Mr. Rakesh Dwivedi, Sr. Adv.
Mr.R.K.Rathore, Adv.
Mr. Sukhjinder Singh, Adv.for
Ms. Rekha Pandey,Adv.

For Appellant(s)
in CA 1515-1516/05

Mr. E.C. Agrawala, Adv.(Not present)

For Appellant(s)
In CA 1517-1519/05
& for respondent(s)
in other appeals

Mr.L.N.Rao, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Ajay Pal, Adv.

For Respondent(s)

Mr. Balbir Singh Gupta,Adv.
Ms. Sunita Sharma ,Adv(Not present)

Rr-Ex-Parte

Mr. P.N.Puri, Adv.
Mr. Dhiraj, Adv.

Mr. Arun K.Sinha, Adv.(Not present)

-2-

UPON hearing counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R

The Appeals are allowed in terms of the signed
order. No costs.

(Parveen Kr. Chawla)
Court Master

(Indu Satija)
Court Master

[signed order is placed on the file]
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CIVIL APPEAL NOS.1524-1525 OF 2005

Inderjit Singh & Others

..Appellants

versus

State of Punjab & Others

..Respondents

WITH

CIVIL APPEAL NOS.1517-1519 OF 2005
CIVIL APPEAL NOS.1515-1516 OF 2005

O R D E R

These Appeals have been filed challenging the common impugned judgment of the High Court of Punjab & Haryana at Chandigarh dated 31st October, 2001.

The facts in detail have been set out in the impugned judgment and hence we are not repeating the same here.

It appears that three Writ Petitions were filed in the High Court challenging the selection and appointment of the appellants in Civil Appeal Nos.1524-1525 of 2005 and Civil Appeal Nos.1515-1516 of 2005 which were allowed by the High Court and hence these appeals. Civil Appeal Nos.1517-1519 of 2005 have been filed by the State of Punjab.

-2-

In our opinion, the High Court should not have entertained the writ petitions as they were clearly barred by laches. It appears that the list of selected candidates was released on 14th January, 1993 but the first writ petition was filed on 21st September, 1995 i.e. after a delay of about two years and eight months. Hence, in our opinion, writ petitions should have been dismissed on the ground of laches.

Accordingly, we allow these appeals, set aside the impugned judgment of the High Court and dismiss the writ petitions on the ground of laches. No costs.

.....J.
[MARKANDEY KATJU]

NEW DELHI;
APRIL 13, 2010

.....J.
[A.K. PATNAIK]