

ITEM NO.3

COURT NO.2

SECTION X

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
R E C O R D O F P R O C E E D I N G S

WRIT PETITION (CIVIL)Diary No(s).30437/2025

HARISH BHARDWAJ & ORS.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

UNION OF INDIA & ORS.

Respondent(s)

FOR ADMISSION

IA No. 176587/2025 - CONDONATION OF DELAY IN REFILING/CURING THE DEFECTS

Date : 04-08-2025 This matter was called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SURYA KANT
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

For Petitioner(s) Mr. Ranjit Kumar, Sr. Adv.
Mr. Nishant Ramakantrao Katneshwarkar, AOR
Mr. Vijay Singh, Adv.
Mr. Shirirang Katneshwarkar, Adv.

For Respondent(s)

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

1. Delay condoned.
2. The petitioners are employees of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (hereinafter referred to as 'the Committee'). It is averred that there are four categories of employees working in the Committee, namely, (i) permanent employees; (ii) outsourced employees; (iii) contractual employees; and (iv) employees brought on deputation from the Supreme Court Registry. The petitioners fall in the first category, namely, the permanent employees of the Committee. It is their case that while all other categories of employees of the Committee are getting pay-scales at par with the employees working in the Supreme Court Registry and some of them are getting 50% more than that. The permanent employees of the Committee have been placed in lesser pay-scale thereby violating

their Right to Equality guaranteed to them under Article 14 and 16 of the Constitution.

3. We have heard learned Senior Counsel for the petitioners and carefully perused the material placed on record.

4. It appears that the petitioners have been vindicating their grievances through various representations, copies of some of which are placed on record. It further appears that the matter has not been brought before the competent authority, namely, the Hon'ble Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee.

5. We are, thus, of the considered opinion that it would be more appropriate that the claim for alleged pay parity or for elimination of any discrimination, is duly considered by the Chairman of the Committee, who is one of the seniormost Judge of the Supreme Court.

6. Consequently, we dispose of these Special Leave Petitions with a request to the Hon'ble Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee to consider the representations, said to have been made by the permanent employees like the petitioners, and take an appropriate decision as may be deemed fit.

7. The Secretary of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee is directed to submit the proposal at the earliest but not later than two weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

8. Consequent upon disposal of these Special Leave Petitions, pending interlocutory application also stands disposed of.

(SATISH KUMAR YADAV)
ADDITIONAL REGISTRAR

(PREETHI T.C.)
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR