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IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI

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W.P.(C) 7998/2025 & CM APPL. 35050/2025

RUSHANT MALHOTRA & ORS.

.....Petitioners

Through: Mr. Ankit Jain, Sr. Adv. with Mr. Abhishek Taneja, Mr. Aditya VS Chauhan, Mr. shashank Agarwal, Mr Sahil Sharma, Mr. Bhavya Khatreja, Ms. Apurva Tyagi & Mr. Surya Sirohi, Advs. (M: 9971522722)

versus

THE GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI & ORS.Respondents

Through: Ms. Avnish Ahlawat, SC, Mr. N.K. Singh, Ms. Aliza Alam, Mr. Mohnish Sehrawat and Mr. Amitoj Chadha, Advs.

Ms Radhika Bishwajit Dubey, Standing Counsel DHC with Ms. Gurleen Kaur Waraich and Mr. Vivek Sharma, Advs for R-2. (M: 7011431001)

Ms. Avshreya Pratap Singh Rudy, Ms. Usha Jamnal & Ms. Harshita Chaturvedi, Advs. for R-3. (M: 9810001315)

CORAM:

JUSTICE PRATHIBA M. SINGH

JUSTICE RAJNEESH KUMAR GUPTA

ORDER

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08.07.2025

1. This hearing has been done through hybrid mode.

CM APPL. 35050/2025 (for exemption)

2. Allowed, subject to all just exceptions. Application is disposed of.



W.P.(C) 7998/2025

3. At the outset, Id. counsel for the Petitioners and the Respondents have submitted that they do not have any objection with this Bench hearing the matter.

4. This is a writ petition filed by 13 Law Researchers (*hereinafter, LRs*) who were engaged by this Court, seeking the implementation of the direction issued by Hon'ble the Acting Chief Justice dated 16th August, 2023, enhancing the monthly remuneration of the LRs with effect from 01st October, 2022.

5. The background of this case is that on 18th September, 2017 the remuneration of LRs was approved to be enhanced from Rs. 25,000/- to Rs. 35,000/- and the same was implemented on 3rd January, 2018 by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (*hereinafter, 'GNCTD'*).

6. The said remuneration was, further, increased to Rs. 50,000/- and the High Court had sought sanction for the same from the GNCTD on 24th August, 2018. The same remained pending for several years.

7. While the said increase in remuneration was pending approval from GNCTD, the remuneration was again increased to Rs. 65,000/- with effect from 1st August, 2019 which was finally sanctioned on 1st November, 2021 and a notification revising the said remuneration of LRs in the official engagement scheme was issued on 16th February, 2022.

8. Mr. Ankit Jain, Id. Sr. Counsel for the Petitioners now submits that a Committee of Judges of this Court has approved the increase in the monthly remuneration of the LRs from Rs. 65,000/- to Rs. 80,000/- and the Hon'ble the Acting Chief Justice has also approved the same.



9. This has also been communicated by the Establishment Branch (I) of the Delhi High Court on 1st September, 2023 to the Delhi Government, however, the same has not been considered yet and no approval has been granted. Hence, this writ petition.

10. It deserves to be noted that LR's who are attached to Judges of this Court or any other Court have an important role to play in the assistance which is rendered to Judges. They prepare case briefs, conduct research and are expected to stay abreast with the latest developments in law. Owing to the quantum of work that Judges have to deal with on a daily basis, Law Researchers are also required to stay late hours everyday and also usually work on weekends and holidays. *Prima facie*, the Delhi Government ought to consider the approved enhancement by the Court and take a decision in an expedited manner. Accordingly, issue notice to the Respondents. Ms. Dubey, ld. counsel accepts notice on behalf of the Delhi High Court.

11. Ld. Counsels appearing for the Respondents have pointed out that there are some errors in the memo of parties in the present petition.

12. Let the GNCTD be impleaded through both, the Law Secretary as also through the Finance Secretary as Respondent Nos. 1(A) and 1(B) respectively.

13. Respondent No. 3— Union of India shall be reflected as being represented through the Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India. Accordingly, Mr. Jain, ld. Sr. Counsel submits that an amended memo would be filed by the Petitioner.

14. Let short affidavits be filed by the GNCTD as also by the Union of India.

15. List on 21st August, 2025.



16. This matter shall be treated as part heard.

PRATHIBA M. SINGH, J

RAJNEESH KUMAR GUPTA, J

JULY 8, 2025

dj/ss