IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BANGALORE DATED THIS THE 02ND DAY OF NOVEMBER 2011

PRESENT

THE HON BLE MR. JUSTICE K.L.MANJUNATH

AND

THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE B.MANOHAR

WRIT PETITION No.10422/2006(S-CAT)

BEIWEEN:

SMT K.T.VIJAYALAKSHMI W/O. KONDAIAH.J AGED ABOUT 41 YEARS INCOME TAX OFFICER, WARD NO. 2(3), RANGE -2, INCOME TAX OFFICE, UNITY BUILDING, 6TH FLOOR, MISSION ROAD BANGALORE - 560 027.

... PETITIONER

(BY SRI N.R.NAIK & ASSOCIATES)

AND:

1. THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX KARNATAKA CIRCLE,
C.R. BUILDINGS
QUEEN'S ROAD
BANGALORE - 560 001.

K~

- 2. THE CHAIRMAN
 CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECT TAXES
 NORTH BLOCK
 NEW DELHI 110 001.
- 3. UNION OF INDIA
 REP BY THE SECRETARY
 GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 MINISTRY OF FINANCE
 NORTH BLOCK
 NEW DELHI 110 001
- 4. THE DIRECTOR
 DEPT OF PERSONNEL & TRAINING
 MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL,
 PUBLI GRIEVANCES & PERNSIONS,
 GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 NORTH BLOCK,
 NEW DELHI 100 001.
- 5. MS.KALAVATHY
 POSTED AS INCOME TAX OFFICER,
 WARD 14(1), C.R. BUILDINGS
 BANGALORE 560001.
- 6. MS.NITYAKALYANI
 POSTED AS INCOME TAX OFFICER
 WARD 3(3), UNITY BUILDINGS ANNEXE
 BANGALORE 560 027.
- 7. MS.SHYAMALA.C
 POSTED AS INCOME TAX OFFICER
 TDS II, INFANTRY ROAD,
 BANGALORE 560 001.
- 8 MR.M.CHANDRASHEKARAIAH POSTED AS INCOME TAX OFFICER

for

- WARD 6(4), UNITY BUILDING ANNEXE BANGALORE 560 001.
- 9. MS.VASANTHAKUMARI
 POSTED AS INCOME TAX OFFICER
 WARD 15(1), C.R. BUILDIGNS
 BANGALORE 560001.
- 10. MR.R.SURESH
 POSTED AS INCOME TAX OFFICER
 FOR DIR. OF INCOME TAX

 3RD FLOOR, C.R. BUILDING ANNEXE
 QUEENS ROAD
 BANGALORE 560001.
- 11. MR.GANGACHIKKAIAH
 POSTED AS TAX RECOVERY OFFICER
 WARD 2, TUMKUR.
- 12. MR.JEEVANNAVAR
 POSTED AS TAX RECOVERY OFFICER
 BADI KAMAN ROAD
 NEAR MUNICIPAL HOSIPTAL
 BIJAPUR 586 101.
- 13. MR.L.RAJKUMAR
 POSTED TAX RECOVERY OFFICER
 (EXEMPTIONS), CRESENT ROAD
 BANGALORE 560001.
- 14. SRI.SAJITH KUMAR.T
 S/O NARAYANA T
 AGED ABOUT 40 YEARS
 WORKING AS INSEPCTOR OF INCOME TAX
 C.R. BUILDING,
 QUEENS ROAD,
 BANGALORE

1

R/AT NO. 978, 3RD CROSS, 6TH BLOCK, HMT LAYOUR, VIDYARANYAPURA BANGALORE - 560097.

- 15. N.P.S.SUNDAR
 S/O N S PARAMESWARAN
 AGED ABOUT 37 YEARS
 WORKING AS INSEPCTRO OF INCOME TAX
 O/O JOINT COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX
 SPL RANGE 2, BANGALORE.
 R/AT NO.GF2, RAM VILLA,
 24/14, 22ND MAIN,
 PADMANABHANAGAR,
 BANGALORE-70.
- 16. V.RAJASHEKAR
 S/O LATE DR.V.RAMACHANDRA RAO
 AGED ABOUT 35 YEARS,
 WORKING AS INSPECTOR OF INCOME TAX,
 O/O. THE ADDL. CHIEF COMMR.
 OF INCOME TAX (AUDIT)
 C.R.BUILDING ANNEXE,
 QUEENS ROAD,
 BANGALORE 01,
 R/AT NO.137, 7th A MAIN,
 4th BLOCK, 3rd STAGE,
 BASAVESWARANAGAR,
 BANGALORE-79.
- 17. N.SAYIRAJ
 S/O B NAGAMANICIKAM
 AGED ABOUT 33 YEARS,
 WORKING AS INCOME TAX INSPECTOR JOINT
 COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX (ASST)
 SPECIAL RANGE 6,
 C.R. BUILDING, QUEENS ROAD

1

BANGLAORE - 560 001, R/AT NO.106, 5TH MAIN, 3RD CROSS, SRINIVASANAGAR, BANGALORE - 560 050.

- 18. SRINIVAS
 S/O LATE K.SEETHARAMAIAH
 AGED ABOUT 34 YEARS,
 WORKING AS INSPECTOR OF INCOME TAX (ASST)
 SPECIAL RANGE-6
 C.R BUILDING, QUEENS ROAD,
 BANGALORE -01
 R/O. NO. 85, BMS COLONY
 SAJAYANAGAR,
 BANGALORE.
- 19. M.SATHYANARAYANA BHAT
 S/O M GOVINDA BHAT
 AGED ABOUT 35 YEARS,
 WORKING AS INSPECTOR OF INCOME TAX,
 O/O. ADDL. COMMISSIONER OF
 INCOME TAX CENTRAL,
 C.R. BUILDING, 2ND FLOOR,
 QUEENS ROAD, BANGALORE -01,
 R/AT NO. 2774, 13TH MAIN ROAD,
 E-BLOCK, 2ND STAGE,
 RAJAJINAGAR,
 BANGALORE.
- 20. V.GANESH
 S/O I VENKATARAMAN
 AGED ABOUT 36 YEARS,
 WORKING AS INSPECTOR
 OF INCOME TAX,
 O/O. ADDL.COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX,
 RANGE 4
 KENDRIYA SADAN,

Å~

KORAMANGALA BANGALORE - 560 034

- 21. G SURESH
 S/O G SAJJARAYAPPA
 AGED ABOUT 36 YEARS,
 WORKING AS INSPECTOR OF INCOME TAX,
 O/O. ADDL.COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX,
 RANGE 4, KENDRIYA SADAN,
 KORAMANGALA
 BANGALORE,
 R/AT NO.63/2, SRIMUKHA,
 RANGA RAO ROAD
 SHANKARAPURAM,
 BANGALORE -560 034.
- 22 MS.R.ANURADHA
 D/O RAMAPRASAD.S.K
 AGED ABOUT 49 YEARS
 WORKING AS INCOME TAX INSPECTOR O/O. THE
 JOINT COMMISSIONER OF INCOME TAX (ASST)
 SPECIAL RANGE I,
 C.R. BUILDING, QUEENS ROAD,
 BANGALORE 01, R/AT NO.B-7,
 INCOME TAX COLONY,
 NO.2, INFANTRY ROAD,
 BANGALORE.
- 23 H.SHIVAPRASAD REDDY
 S/O G HANUMANTHE GOWDA
 AGED ABOUT 43 YEARS,
 WORKING AS INSPECTOR OF INCOME TAX,
 O/O. ADDL COMMR OF INCOME TAX (AUDIT),
 C.R.BUILDING, QUEEN'S ROAD,
 BANGALORE-01, R/AT NO.27,
 LIC MODEL HOUSING COLONY
 3RD STAGE, IV BLOCK,

A~

BASAVASWARANAGAR, BANGALORE.

- 24 RSRL SUNDAR KUMAR
 S/O R.VENKATESWARULU
 AGED ABOUT 41 YEARS,
 WORKING AS INCOME TAX INSPECTOR
 O/O. ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER OF
 INCOME TX (AUDIT)-I
 R/AT NO.23, 6TH MAIN,
 P.G. HALLI
 BANGALORE.
- 25 MS SHEIBA JOHN
 D/O A C JOHN
 AGED ABOUT 33 YEARS
 WORKING AS INCOME TAX INSPECTOR
 O/O DIT (INV) BANGALORE
 R/AT 1663, 9TH MAIN,
 HAL 3RD STAGE
 BANGALORE 560 075.
- 26 JEPPU SADASHIVA
 S/O LATE RAMA S PATNKAR
 AGED ABOUT 55 YEARS,
 WORKING AS INSPECTOR OF INCOME TAX
 INCOME TAX OFFICE,
 NO.1/1, SAMPIGE ROAD
 MALLESWARAM
 BANGALORE 560 003
 R/AT NO.87, INCOME TAX QUARTERS,
 JAYAMAHAL EXTN.
 BANGALORE 560046.
- 27. MS.K.LAKSHMI G VAIDYANATHAN
 AGED ABOUT 31 YEARS,
 WORKING AS INCOME TAX INSPECTOR.

A

O/O. THE ITO WARD-I(III)
BANGALORE, UNITY BUILDING ANNEXE,
MISSION ROAD,
BANGLAORE - 560027,
R/AT NO. 7/3, A LIG FLATS,
NANDINI LAYOUT,
BANGALORE - 560 096.

- 28 V.GURUBASAVARAJA
 S/O LATE V BASANNA
 AGED ABOUT 53 YEARS,
 WORKING AS INCOME TAX INSPECOTR,
 O/O. SENIOR AUTHORIZED
 REP. INCOME TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL,
 2ND FLOOR, SANTOSH COMPLEX,
 K.G. ROAD, BANGALORE 560 009.
 R/AT NO.9, INCOME TAX COLONY,
 NO.2, INFANTRY ROAD,
 BANGALORE.
- 29. S.SRINIVASA KHANNA
 S/O K SUBRAMANIAN
 AGED ABOUT 32 YEARS,
 WORKIGN AS INCOME TAX INSPECTOR,
 INCOME TAX OFFICE,
 NO.1/1, JEEVAN SAMPIGE
 SAMPIGE ROAD, MALLESWARAM
 BANGALORE 560 0003.
 R/AT NO.65, ITI LAYOUT,
 M.S.R. NAGAR,
 BANGALORE 54
- 30. G.SIDDANNJA SHETTY
 S/O GANGANNA SHETTY
 AGED ABOUT 55 YEARS,
 POSTED AS INSPECTOR OF INCOME TAX
 RANGE 9,

M

BANGALORE - 560 003. R/AT NO.31, TANK BUND ROAD, BANGALORE -560 018.

- 31 MRS NAZEERA MOHAMMED W/O. P.A. MOHAMMED, AGED ABOUT 36 YEARS RANGE - I MANGALORE R/AT FAYAZ MANAL ROASRIA CHURCH ROAD MANGALORE - 560001.
- 32 M.NAGABHUSHANA
 S/O M VISWESHWARA BHATTA
 AGED ABOUT 37 YEARS
 POSTED AS INCOME TAX OFFICER WARD 2,
 KARWAR, R/AT NO.
 C 3/2, INCOME TAX
 RECOVERY OFFICER,
 MANGALORE, R/AT NO. 30,
 21ST MAIN. 2ND STAGE,
 MYSORE 570 008.
- 33 K.SUBHAS, S/O.S.A.BHANDARY, AGED ABOUT 45 YEARS, POSTED AS TAX RECOVERY OFFICER, MANGALORE, R/AT NO.30, 21ST MAIN, 2ND STAGE, MYSORE – 570 008
- 34 SUDHEENDRA KUMAR S/O SADANANDA RAO AGED ABOUT 33 YEARS, POSTED AS TAX REVOCERY OFFICER, RANGE - I, PANAJI R/AT NO. 967/2, 1ST CROSS,

Å~

JLB ROAD, LAKSHIPURAM, MYSORE - 560004.

- 35 MRS.A.SUNANDA
 W/O H K GUNDU RAO
 AGED ABOUT 35 YEARS, POSTED AS INSPECTOR
 OF INCOME TAX, O/O. JOINT COMMISSIONER
 OF INCOME TAX, BANGALORE 01,
 R/AT SITE NO. 8, SY NO. 7/4,
 NEAR UDAY ENGINEERING,
 VIVEKANANDA NAGAR,
 KATHRI-GUPPE MAIN ROAD,
 BANGALORE 85.
- 36 MRS.NIRMALA
 W/O SANNAYYA VARAMBALLY
 AGED ABOU T35 YEARS
 POSTED AS TAX RECOVERY OFFICER, RANGE 2
 UNITY BUILDING ANNEXE, MISSION ROAD,
 BANGALORE 27, R/AT NO. 14, 9TH MAIN
 BRINDAVAN NAGAR,
 MATHIKERE EXTENSION,
 BANGALORE 85.
- 37 MRS.SUMATHY VENKATARAMAN
 W/O. M VENKATARAMAN
 AGED ABOUT 36 YEARS,
 POSTED AS INCOME TAX OFFICER (CTU)
 BANGALORE 560 001,
 R/AT NO. 16/1, 3RD CROSS ROAD,
 MALLESWARAM,
 BANGALORE 560 003. ... RESPONDENTS

(BY SRI M.VASUDEVA RAO, SR CGC FOR R1 TO 4, SRIKANTH.R, ADV FOR R.37, R.7, 8, 10, 11, 14 TO 17, 19, 21, 25, 26, 28, 29, 32, 33, 35 ARE SERVED

&~

WP DISMISSED AS AGAINST R5, 6, 9 12, 13, 18 20, 22, 23, 24, 27, 30, 31, 34 & 36)

THIS WP FILED PRAYING TO QUASH THE IMPUGNED ORDER OF THE CAT DATED 17THG AUGUST 2005 AT ANNEXURE-F AND DATED 24.10.2005 AT ANNEXURE-G IN SO FAR AS PETITIONER IS CONCERNED AND DIRECTION TO RESPONDENTS 1 TO 4 NOT TO DISTURB THE 11 SC CATEGORY OFFICERS WHO WERE PROMOTED EARLIER TO 10TH FEBRUARY 2005 IN THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS AND SENIORITY AND NOT TO READ JUST THEM FOR THE VACANCIES OCCURRING SUBSEQUENT THERETO DIRECTION TO THE RESPONDENTS 1 TO 4 IN THE NATURE OF MANDAMUS TO REDO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SABHARWAL JUDGMENT WITHOUT **ADJUSTING** EXCESS OF 11 POSTS, WHICH WERE IN EXISTENCE PREIOR TO THE DATE OF JUDGMENT IN THE CASE OF SABHARWAL AND GRANT AN INTERIM ORDER PAYING THE OPERATION OF THE IMPUGNED ORDER OF THE CAT DATED 17TH AUGUST 2005 AND TO RESTRAIN THE RESPONDNETS 1 TO 4 FROM REVERTING PETITIONER. ANNEXURE F IN SO FAR AS THE PETITIONER IS CONCERNED.

THIS WRIT PETITION HAVING BEEN HEARD AND RESERVED AND COMING ON FOR PRONOUNCEMENT OF JUDGMENT THIS DAY, B.MANOHAR J., DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING:

ORDER

The petitioner in this writ petition is challenging the legality and correctness of order dated 17-1-2003 made in

A~

O.A.No.1724/2001 and O.A.Nos.1753-1775/2001 passed by the Central Administrative Tribunal ('the CAT' for brevity), Bangalore Branch, Bangalore and also sought for quashing the orders dated 17-8-2005 and 24-8-2005 made in O.A.No.510/2004 and other connected applications and O.A.Nos.292-295/2005, insofar as directing the authorities to fix the seniority for the post of Income Tax Officer from the cadre of Income Tax Inspectors in pursuance of judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in R.K.SABHARWAL's case.

2. The petitioner was initially appointed as Income Tax Inspector on 1-9-1989. Thereafter she was promoted along with others as Income Tax Officer on passing the qualifying the examinations as per the Rules. The promotion given to the petitioner and others has been questioned in O.A.No.1724/2001 and O.A.Nos.1753-1775/2001 before the CAT, Bangalore Branch, Bangalore contending that overlooking the seniority of other Income

for

Tax Officers, promotion has been given to the petitioner and other 9 applicants (who are the respondents 5 to 14 in the said applications) and they belong to Scheduled Caste category in between 1995 to 2000. It was further contended that the cadre strength of Income Tax Officers as on 10-2-1995 of the Karnataka State is 141, out of which, 31 belonged to Scheduled Caste category, 10 belonged to Scheduled Tribe category. There has been excessive representation of the candidates belonging to SC/ST categories. Without considering the law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in R.K.SABHARWAL v/s STATE OF PUNJAB reported in (1995) 2 SCC (L & S) 745, promotion has been given to the candidates belonged to Scheduled Caste categories which is contrary to law. The CAT after considering the matter in detail held that promotion given to respondents 4 to 15 is in total defiance of law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in R.K.SABHARWAL's case well as the Memorandum issued by the Department of Personnel &

An

Training. Without ordering for reversion to respondents 4 to 15, a direction was issued to respondents 1 to 3 to hold review DPCs and review all the promotions made in the cadre of Income Tax Officer in the Karnataka Region made on or after 10-2-1995 and accordingly rearrange the appointment as well as the seniority of the officials, within three months from the date of receipt of the copy of the order.

3. In pursuance to the order passed by the CAT dated 17-1-2003 in O.A.No.1724/2001 and other connected applications, the respondents reviewed the promotions as per memorandum dated 11-7-2003 and sought for objections if any for the order in which, promotions are made/seniority fixed on or before 31-7-2003. The petitioner and other aggrieved persons have filed their detailed objections for reviewing the promotion given in between 1995 to 2000. The Official respondents without considering their objections issued a memorandum dated

A

15-6-2004 rejecting the said representation. Being aggrieved by the Official Memorandum dated 15-6-2004, some of the Income Tax Officers filed O.A.No.510/2004 and other connected applications. Further, the petitioner also filed O.A.NO.293/2005 challenging the Official Memorandum dated 11-7-2003 as well as 15-6-2004. The CAT by its order dated 17-8-2005 allowed the O.A.No.510/2004 and other connected applications. Subsequently, an order was passed on the application O.A.No.293/2005 filed by the petitioner and others on 24-8-2005. While disposing of the said application, following observations has been made:

"10. On bestowing our careful consideration to the OM dated 11.7.2003 as well as 15.6.2004 we are of the considered view that the mandate of the order of this Tribunal dated 17.1.2003 vis a vis DOPT OM dated 2.7.1997, Court in R.K.Sabarwal's case has not been followed and there has been no application of mind in passing the aforesaid

S~

impugned communication particularly dated 11.7.2003 and 15.6.2004. In conclusion our findings are

- a) The promotions of SC/ST candidates who were declared successful and qualified in the ITO departmental examination on relaxed standard could not be allowed to compete with general candidates as they could not have been promoted based on "their own merits and not owing to reservation or relaxed qualification".
- not secured 390 marks out of 650, remain to be considered only as SC/ST candidates and could not be treated as general candidates for any purpose particularly for the purpose of consideration for promotion to the next higher post. They could be allowed to compete only for the vacancies meant for SC/ST candidates.

Śν.

c) OM dated 11.7.2003 as well as 15.6.2004 is not in accordance with the law and cannot be sustained (emphasis supplied)

Accordingly, the respondents are directed to review the promotions made to the cadre of Income Tax Officers in Karnataka Circle in terms of the directions issued by this Tribunal on 17.1.2003 as well as the observations made hereinabove. This exercise shall be completed within a period of two months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. No costs"

The petitioner being aggrieved by the order dated 17-8-2005 as well as 24-8-2005 passed by the CAT in paragraph 10(a) filed this writ petition.

4. Sri.N.R.Naik, learned counsel appearing for the petitioner contended that the observations made by the CAT while quashing the Official Memorandum dated

/~

15-6-2004 is contrary to law and the promotion to the SC/ST candidates were made on their own merit and not reservation. Further, the CAT has wholly misunderstood the ratio of the decision in SABHARWALA's case, which has been further clarified and explained by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in AJIT SINGH AND OTHERS v/s STATE OF PUNJAB reported in (1999) 7 SCC 209. The petitioner was directly appointed as an Income Tax Inspector. On passing the qualifying examination she was promoted as Income Tax Officer as per Rules along with other 9 persons. There is no infirmity or irregularity in promoting the petitioner and others who belonged to different class altogether. Hence, they are entitled for the promotion to the post of Income Tax Officers. SC/ST candidates have been promoted on their own merits not owing to the reservation or relaxation, qualification will not be adjusted against the reserved points of reservation roaster and they will be adjusted against the unreserved posts. In the instant case, the



petitioner and 9 other candidates have been selected on merits on passing the qualifying examination, hence they are entitled to hold the post of Income Tax Officers. The observation made by the CAT is contrary to law and sought for setting aside the observation made in paragraph 10(a) of the order.

5. On the other hand, Sri.M.Vasudeva Rao learned Senior Central Government Standing Counsel argued in support of the order passed by the CAT and contended that the petitioner herself being aggrieved by the Official Memorandum dated 11-7-2003 and also 15-6-2004 rejecting her objections filed to the seniority list, filed O.A.No.293/2005. The said application was allowed by the CAT on 24-8-2005. She cannot be an aggrieved person and she cannot challenge the order passed by the CAT. The direction issued by the CAT is to review the promotion made to the cadre of Income Tax Officers in Karnataka Region in terms of the direction issued by the CAT dated

/w

17-1-2003 as well as the observations made in its order dated 24-8-2005. If the decision of the Review Committee goes against her interest, she can challenge the same. Hence, the writ petition filed by the petitioner is liable to be dismissed.

- 6. We have carefully considered the arguments addressed by the learned counsel for the parties and perused the orders impugned in the above writ petition.
- 7. It is not in dispute that pursuant to the order made in O.A.No.1724/2001 and other connected applications, wherein the CAT directed respondents 1 to 3 to hold review DPCs and review all the promotions made in the cadre of Income Tax Officers in the Karnataka Region made on or after 10-2-1995 and accordingly arranged the appointment as well as the seniority list of officials, the respondents reviewed the promotion made earlier and called for objections to the Official Memorandum dated

la.

11-7-2003 to the seniority list of Income Tax Officers. The petitioner and similarly situated persons filed their objections to the said revised seniority list of Income Tax However, the Official respondents without Officers. considering the contentions raised in their objections, the same by its Official mechanically rejected Memorandum dated 15-6-2004. The said order has been questioned by the petitioner in O.A.No.293/2005 before the CAT, Bangalore Branch Bangalore. The CAT, clubbing all the identical matters together disposed of with certain observations directing the respondents to review the promotion made in the cadre of Income Tax Officers in Karnataka Circle in terms of the direction issued by the Tribunal dated 17-2-2003 in O.A.No.1724/2001 and other connected applications and also observations made in O.A.No.293/2005 and other connected applications. not open to the petitioner to challenge the order made in O.A.No.1724/2001 disposed of 17-1-2003 in this writ petition. On the basis of the said order, the official



respondents reviewed the promotions made. The said review of the promotion has been questioned in O.A.No.293/2005 and other connected applications. The CAT directed the official respondents to review the promotions in terms directions issued in of O.A.No.1724/2001 and other connected applications. While passing the order, the CAT directed to follow the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in R.K.SABHARWAL's case. It is for the official respondents to consider the same and pass appropriate orders in accordance with the earlier directions issued by the CAT in its order dated 17-1-2003 in O.A.No.1724/2001 and other connected matters. Hence, the question of quashing the order dated 17-8-2005 and 24-8-2005 made in O.A.No.510/2004 and O.A.No.293/2005 and connected matters does not arise

8. Admittedly, the petitioner and others have not been demoted from the post of Income Tax Officers to the

An

Income Tax Inspectors. The direction of the Tribunal is only to redo the seniority in accordance with the direction issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in R.K.SABHARWAL's case. The petitioner cannot be an aggrieved person, hence the order passed by the CAT cannot be quashed. The petitioner has not made out a case to interfere with the order passed by the CAT. Accordingly, the writ petition is dismissed.

Sd/-JUDGE

> Sd/-JUDGE

mpk/-*