

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI

W.P. (S) No. 2397 of 2023

Ravindra Baraik ... .. Petitioner  
Versus  
The State of Jharkhand & Others ... .. Respondents  
With  
W.P. (S) No. 2253 of 2023  
With  
W.P. (S) No. 2395 of 2023  
With  
W.P. (S) No. 2600 of 2023  
With  
W.P. (S) No. 2647 of 2023  
With  
W.P. (S) No. 2698 of 2023  
With  
W.P. (S) No. 2833 of 2023  
With  
W.P. (S) No. 3049 of 2023  
With  
W.P. (S) No. 3312 of 2023

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CORAM: HON'BLE MRS. JUSTICE ANUBHA RAWAT CHOUDHARY  
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**08/2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024**

1. Learned counsel for the parties are present.
2. Learned counsel for the petitioners have submitted that the petitioners had participated in the selection process for appointment of Village Level Worker (Jan Sewak) in different districts of State of Jharkhand. Pursuant to the advertisement, which clearly indicated the pay-scale as 5200-20200, grade pay 2400; the petitioners became successful and joined the said post. They were paid salary in terms of the aforesaid pay-scale and by the impugned action, the grade pay has been reduced to 2000. Consequently, the pay has been revised and an order of recovery has been made.
3. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the State has submitted that the advertisement was made district wise and the correct pay-scale was mentioned in the advertisement of Gumla District. He has further submitted that there was

an error in the advertisement itself in connection with other districts. The learned counsel has also submitted that there was a resolution bearing No. 660 dated 28.02.2009 by the Finance Department according to which the existing Village Level Workers were to be given the grade pay of 2400 but for the new incumbent the grade pay was fixed as 2000 and consequently the impugned action has been taken.

4. In W.P. (S) No. 2395 of 2023, a counter-affidavit has been filed on behalf of the State only from the side of the Agriculture Department.

5. The learned counsel for the Respondent-State in W.P. (S) No. 2395 of 2023 is directed to seek instructions and file a counter-affidavit on behalf of the Secretary, Department of Finance, State of Jharkhand who is respondent No. 4. The learned counsel is also directed to place on record the different advertisements in connection with different districts particularly the advertisement which has been referred to with respect to Gumla District. The learned counsel is also directed to specifically state as to the pay scale which is was provided to the Village Level Worker in Gumla District arising out of the same recruitment process.

6. The learned counsel for the petitioners have submitted that since common issue is involved in all the cases, the counter-affidavit which is to be filed by the Secretary, Department of Finance, State of Jharkhand in W.P. (S) No. 2395 of 2023 may be considered for the other writ petitions also.

7. Let the affidavit of the Secretary, Finance Department, Government of Jharkhand be filed by 23.04.2024. The affidavit be also served upon the learned counsels for the petitioners of each writ petitioner in batch cases.

8. Post these cases on 24.04.2024 in the supplementary cause list.

**(Anubha Rawat Choudhary, J.)**

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