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# HIGH COURT OF TRIPURA AGARTALA

W.P(C) No. 422/2020

For Petitioner(s) : Mr. Somik Deb, Advocate.

Mr. R. S. Bhattacharjee, Advocate.

For Respondent(s) : Mr. D. Sharma, Additional Govt. Advocate.

### HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. AKIL KURESHI

# ORDER

## 06/07/2020

The petitioner is a police inspector in the State service. He has obtained a BA degree from an institute imparting on off campus training. The State Government had issued a notification dated 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 declaring that all such degrees awarded after 02.04.2011 by institutes imparting on off campus training would not be considered valid. Some of the degree holders had moved the High Court challenging the said notification. The High Court in its Judgments dated 27.06.2014 and 07.08.2014 passed in W.P(c) No.403/2013 and W.P(C) No.417/2013 respectively requested the State Government to reconsider the cut-off date. Accordingly, the State Government issued a fresh notification dated 25.11.2014 and extended the cut-off date for recognition of the degrees awarded before 10.07.2013 i.e. date of issuance of the previous notification.

Case of the petitioner is that he had enrolled in the course in the year 2010 with prior no objection certificate from the State Government. He had appeared in all examinations before the cut-off date of 10.07.2013. Thereafter, all that remained was to assess his answer papers and to award degrees if he had passed. This admittedly happened after 10.07.2013. According to the petitioner, he would fall within the extended time limit by virtue of the notification dated 25.11.2014. He would get certain service benefits if such degree of BA pass is recognized by the State Government. The petitioner made several representations. The stand taken by the respondents while rejecting the petitioner's representations is that as per notification dated 25.11.2014 a person must obtain the degree from

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the concerned institution before the cut-off dated of 10.07.2013. Since in case of the petitioner this condition was not fulfilled, his degree cannot be recognized for the purpose of service benefits. The petitioner has, therefore, challenged the communications issued by the State Government rejecting his representations.

Learned counsel for the petitioner submitted that the interpretation adopted by the State Government of the Notification dated 25.11.2014 is erroneous. Once the petitioner appeared in the final examinations before 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2013, when he was awarded the degree is only inconsequential.

Issue notice, returnable on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2020.

Mr. D, Sharma, learned Additional Govt. Advocate waives notice on behalf of all the respondents.

(AKIL KURESHI),CJ.

Dipankar