

A

BISWA RANJAN SAHOO AND ORS.
v.
SUSHANTA KUMAR DINDA AND ORS.

MAY 8, 1996

B

[K. RAMASWAMY, FAIZAN UDDIN AND G.B. PATTANAIK, JJ.]

Service Law:

C

Selection process—Lack of integrity and sincerity in—Railways—Selection for Chargemen 'B' Grade in Mechanical and Electrical Division—Mass mal-practice in selection process—Central Administrative Tribunal setting aside the selections made, without giving notice to the selected candidates—Held, Tribunal was right in not issuing notice to persons who are said to have been selected and given appointment—Procedure adopted in selection process is in flagrant breach of the rules offending Articles 14 and

D

16 of the Constitution.

Constitution of India, 1950 : Articles 14 and 16.

E

Selection for chargemen 'B' Grade in Railways—Mass Mal-practice in selection process—Procedure adopted is in flagrant breach of the rules offending Articles 14 and 16—Tribunal was right in not issuing notice to persons said to have been selected and given appointment.

CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION : Civil Appeal No. 9157 of 1996 etc.

F

From the Judgment and Order dated 20.3.96 of the Central Administrative Tribunal, Cuttak in Review Application No. 7 of 1995.

Santosh Hedge, K.N. Tripathy and Janaranjan Das for the Appellants.

G

The following Order of the Court was delivered:

Leave granted.

H

These appeals by special leave arise from the order of Central Administrative Tribunal Cuttack Bench made on October 10, 1994 and

March 20, 1996 in O.A. No. 137/93 and Review Application No. 7/95 A
 respectively. The orders disclose the alarming state of affairs regarding lack
 of integrity and sincerity in the selection process, which is expected to
 assess merit and recommend for appointment of competent and
 meritorious persons according to the list prepared by the competent Selec- B
 tion Board. Reverse is the result shown in the process of selection .
 Pursuant to the advertisement No. 6/92 for filling up of six posts of
 chargemen, 'B' Grade in mechanical & Electrical Division, the fake selec-
 tion process appears to have been gone by and some persons came to be
 appointed including the petitioners. When the selection was questioned,
 the Tribunal had called for the record and on the perusal of the record, C
 noted as under :

"The perusal of the Answer Book of the candidates with Roll No.
 001078 (Umakanta Panigrahi) shows that though at Sl. No. 3, in the first
 page of the answer book, his marks were shown as '00' it was changed to
 '20'. At Serial Number 11, there has been correction of the original marks D
 to 25, the original marks appearing to be 20. This is how the total was
 brought to 95. In second page of the answer book though the mark given
 for Question No. 11 B were 10, later 5 has been added by someone to make
 it 15. In page No. 4, after the answer 1/8 written by the candidate, there
 could be seen some alternation to 0.8 by someone. The facing page of the
 Answer Book of the v candidate 001235 (Sri Biswa Ranjan Sahoo) show E
 over writing at three places. At Sl. 2, original mark 16 appears to have
 changed to 18 and total 91 appears to have been changed to 94. It is not
 possible to mark out how and why answer book 001567 of candidate Rajni
 Kanta Guru was evaluated by different examiner and marks noted in pencil
 as also his signature as apparently initials on this answer book are totally F
 different from the initials of the other examiner. There is practically no
 explanation coming forth as to how and why this examiner was different
 from this paper alone. We have perused the original tabulation which
 reveals that the marks obtained by the petitioner in the interview were
 altered and then total made of the marks obtained in the written test as
 well as the interview. Even for a naked eye, it appears that the marks
 obtained by the petitioner were originally 24 and the same reduced to 22
 by subsequent correction and totally with this correction total was also
 brought down to 117 from 119." G

A perusal thereof would indicate the enormity of mal-practices in the H

- A selection process. The question, therefore, is: whether the principle of natural justice is required to be followed by issuing notice to the selected persons and hearing them? It is true, as contended by Mr. Santosh Hedge, learned senior counsel appearing for the petitioners, that in the case of selection of an individual his selection is not found correct in accordance with law, necessarily, a notice is required to be issued and opportunity be given.
- B In a case like mass mal-practice as noted by the Tribunal, as extracted hereinbefore, the question emerges: whether the notice was required to be issued to the persons affected and whether they needed to be heard? Nothing would become fruitful by issuance of notice. Fabrication would obviously either be not known or no one would come forward to bear the brunt. Under these circumstances, the Tribunal was right in not issuing notice to the persons who are said to have been selected and given selection and appointment. The procedure adopted are in flagrant breach of the rules offending Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution.
- C

D It is needless to mention that the General Manager of the Railways should personally conduct the enquiry and find persons who are responsible for this mal-practice and take appropriate disciplinary action against those persons and submit the result of the report of the action to this Court expeditiously.

E The appeals are accordingly dismissed. No. costs.

R.P.

Appeal dismissed.