

**BEFORE THE UTTARAKHAND PUBLIC SERVICES TRIBUNAL
BENCH AT NAINITAL**

Present: Hon'ble Mr. Rajendra Singh,

.....Vice Chairman (J)

Hon'ble Mr. A.S.Rawat,

.....Vice Chairman (A)

CLAIM PETITION NO. 71/NB/DB/2022

Ishwar Puri, aged about 47 years, s/o Sri Bishan Puri, r/o Village Guler, Post Guler, District Bageshwar.

.....**Petitioner**

Vs.

1. District Magistrate, District Bageshwar.
2. Senior Treasury Officer, District Bageshwar.
3. Sub-Treasury Officer, Kapkot, District Bageshwar.
4. State of Uttarakhand through its Secretary, Department of Finance, Govt. of Uttarakhand, Dehradun.

.....**Respondents**

(Virtually)

Present: Sri Ganesh Kandpal, Advocate for the petitioner
Sri Kishore Kumar, A.P.O. for the Respondents

JUDGMENT

DATED: SEPTEMBER 05, 2024

This claim petition has been filed by the petitioner for the following reliefs:

"A) To pass necessary order or direction, quashing the order dated 29.04.2022 (Annexure No.1) and order dated 26.06.2022(Annexure No. 2) to the claim petition.

B) To pass necessary order or direction directing the respondents to pay the salary to the petitioner for the period from 01.03.2022 to 03.04.2022 i.e. one month three days alongwith interest.

C) To direct the respondents to pay the litigation expenses to the petitioner.

D) To grant such other reliefs which this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit and proper under the facts and circumstances of the case."

2. During Course of arguments, learned A.P.O. has raised preliminary objection that claim petition is premature, as the petitioner has an alternative remedy to file appeal against the impugned order to the appellate authority under Rule 11(1) of the Uttarakhand Government Servant (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 2003. He further submitted that Section 4 of the Public Services Tribunal Act provides that no reference shall ordinarily be entertained by the Tribunal until all departmental remedies (under the rules applicable to the petitioner) are exhausted.

3. Learned Counsel for the petitioner confined his relief to the extent of seeking liberty to appeal to the next higher authority, as per rules and also to condone the delay in filing the appeal.

4. It would be appropriate to quote Rule 11 of the Uttarakhand Govt. Servant (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 2003, as under:

Appeal- "11. (1) Except the orders passed under these rules by the Governor, the Government Servant shall be entitled to appeal to the next higher authority from an order passed by the Disciplinary Authority.

(2) The appeal shall be addressed and submitted to the Appellate Authority. A Government Servant Preferring an appeal shall do so in his own name. The appeal shall contain all material statements and arguments relied upon by the appellant.

(3) The appeal shall not contain any intemperate language. Any appeal, which contains such language may be liable to be summarily dismissed.

(4) The appeal shall be preferred within 90 days from the date of communication of impugned order. An appeal preferred after the said period shall be dismissed summarily.

5. It is provided under Rule 11(1) of the 'Discipline and Appeal Rules' that a government servant is entitled to 'Appeal' against any punishment order to the next higher authority.

6. It would be, therefore, justified that the controversy in question is first considered and decided by the Departmental Appellate Authority, in the interest of justice.

7. In view of above, we allow the petitioner to avail the remedy of 'Appeal' under Rule 11 (1) of the Uttarakhand Government Servant (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 2003 as amended from time to time. The petitioner shall file the 'Appeal' before the Appellate Authority within three weeks from the date of receipt of the certified copy of this order and the Appellate Authority, after receiving it, will decide the Appeal in accordance with law and rules, after affording an opportunity of hearing to the petitioner, as expeditiously as possible, without unreasonable delay. The delay, if any, in filing the appeal is condoned, in the interest of justice.

8. The petition is disposed of accordingly, no order as to costs.

A.S.RAWAT
VICE CHARMAN (A)

RAJENDRA SINGH
VICE CHARMAN (J)

DATED: SEPTEMBER 05, 2024

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