

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION

CIVIL APPEAL NO. _____/2026
[@ SLP [C] NO. 33197/2025]

LEKSHMI G. & ORS.

Appellant(s)

VERSUS

VIRENDER KUMAR & ORS.

Respondent(s)

WITH

CIVIL APPEAL NO. _____/2026
[@SLP(C) No. 33200/2025 (IV-D)]

CIVIL APPEAL NO. _____/2026
[@ SLP(C) No. 33198/2025 (IV-D)]

CIVIL APPEAL NO. _____/2026
[@ SLP(C) No. 32268/2025 (IV-D)]

CIVIL APPEAL NO. _____/2026
[@ SLP(C) No. 33599/2025 (IV-D)]

CIVIL APPEAL NO. _____/2026
[@ SLP(C) No. 32267/2025 (IV-D)]

CIVIL APPEAL NO. _____/2026
[@ SLP(C) No. 34611-34612/2025 (IV-D)]

CIVIL APPEAL NO. _____/2026
[@ SLP(C) No. 1812/2026 (IV-B)]

CIVIL APPEAL NO. _____/2026
[@ SLP(C) No. 3897/2026 (IV-B)]

CIVIL APPEAL NO. _____/2026
[@ SLP(C) No. 3900-3901/2026 (IV-B)]

CIVIL APPEAL NO. _____/2026
[@ SLP(C) No. 3903-3904/2026 (IV-B)]

CIVIL APPEAL NO. _____/2026
[@ SLP(C) No. 5182-5183/2026 (IV-B)]

CIVIL APPEAL NO. /2026
 [@ SLP(C) No. 3907-3908/2026 (IV-B)]

CIVIL APPEAL NO. /2026
 [@ SLP(C) No. 3911-3912/2026 (IV-B)]

CIVIL APPEAL NO. /2026
 [@ SLP(C) No. 3910/2026 (IV-B)]

CIVIL APPEAL NO. /2026
 [@ SLP(C) No. 3917-3918/2026 (IV-B)]

CIVIL APPEAL NO. /2026
 [@ SLP(C) No. 3915-3916/2026 (IV-B)]

CIVIL APPEAL NO. /2026
 [@ SLP(C) No. 14436/2026]

O R D E R

Leave granted.

We have heard the learned Senior Counsel appearing for the parties.

A notice was issued on 21.06.2018 for conducting Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE) for promotion to the post of Section Supervisor. According to the notice, the Employee's Provident Fund Organization (Section Supervisor) Recruitment Regulations, 2017 ('2017 Regulations') would be applicable. Applications were preferred by the petitioners, before the Central Administrative Tribunal challenging the notice. The applications were allowed. Aggrieved, the respondents filed writ petitions challenging the order of the Tribunal. The writ petitions were allowed. Aggrieved, the present appeals have been preferred.

The short issue for consideration that actually emanates for the first time before this Court in pursuance to the counter affidavit filed by respondent No.23 is as to whether the promotion would be governed by the Employees Provident Fund Organization (Section Supervisor) Recruitment Rules, 1992 or the '2017 Regulations' or the '2017 Regulations' as revised and notified on 31.01.2019. A specific stand has been taken by the official respondent- respondent No.23 to the effect that the latter Rules would govern, particularly, when 2017 Regulations have not been approved.

We shall quote the relevant paragraphs of the counter affidavit filed by respondent No.23 which states as under:

“ xxx xxx xxx

9.The Recruitment Rules for the post of Section Supervisor, 2017 were framed considering the recommendations of Cadre Restructuring, 2016 wherein a separate post of Sr. SSA (Level-6) was proposed. Accordingly, the RRs for Section Supervisor, 2017 (Level-7) were framed with a provision for promotion from the feeder post of Sr.SSA. However, the proposal for the creation of Sr.SSA as a separate cadre was not approved in further deliberations, and the post of SSA (Level-4) remained the feeder post. As Sr. SSA was not an approved cadre, the RRs of 2017 were re-examined, amended with the approval of the Government, and re-notified on 31.01.2019,

wherein SSAs with 9 years of regular service were made eligible to appear for the LDCE.

xxx xxx xxx

17. In reply to Ground 5(B), the contents are a matter of record. It is further submitted that the EPFO (Section Supervisor) Recruitment Rules, 2017 were framed as per DoPT norms considering the recommendations of Cadre Restructuring, 2016 wherein a separate post of Sr.SSA was proposed. However, the proposal for the creation of Sr.SSA was not approved. Since Sr.SSA is not an approved cadre, the Recruitment Rules were thereafter revised and re-notified with Government approval on 31.01.2019, wherein SSAs with 9 years of regular service were made eligible for LDCE. The CAT Chandigarh, while passing its order dated 28.11.2019, did not quash the Recruitment Rules of 2017.

xxx xxx xxx

25. In reply to Ground 5(J), the contents are denied. The Section Supervisor Recruitment Rules, 2017 were subsequently revised and superseded by the amended RRs notified in 2019. Thus, the earlier eligibility provision under the RRs of 2017, which formed the basis of the challenge, no longer remains in force. The amended 2019 RRs have not been specifically challenged by the Petitioners; hence, the issue relating to the earlier eligibility condition does not survive in its original form.

xxx xxx xxx "

In view of the above, we are inclined to set aside the impugned judgment(s), and remit the matters

to the High Court for fresh consideration.

Taking note of the issues involved, we request the High Court to expedite the hearing of the matters, and make an endeavour to conclude it within a period of six months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

All issues are left open.

The appeals stand disposed of, accordingly.

Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

.....J.
[M.M. SUNDRESH]

.....J.
[PRASANNA B. VARALE]

NEW DELHI;
OCTOBER 05, 2026.

ITEM NO.62

COURT NO.4

SECTION IV-D

S U P R E M E C O U R T O F I N D I A
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Petition(s) for Special Leave to Appeal (C) No(s). 33197/2025

[Arising out of impugned final judgment and order dated 03-09-2025 in CWP No. 24764/2021 passed by the High Court of Punjab & Haryana at Chandigarh]

LEKSHMI G. & ORS.

Petitioner(s)

VERSUS

VIRENDER KUMAR & ORS.

Respondent(s)

IA No. 261876/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES

IA No. 76265/2026 - PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES

IA No. 255705/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE LENGTHY LIST OF DATES

IA No. 205224/2026 - PERMISSION TO PLACE ADDITIONAL FACTS AND GROUNDS

WITH

SLP(C) No. 33200/2025 (IV-D)

IA No. 261022/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE LENGTHY LIST OF DATES

SLP(C) No. 33198/2025 (IV-D)

FOR ADMISSION

SLP(C) No. 32268/2025 (IV-D)

IA No. 257441/2025 - PERMISSION TO FILE LENGTHY LIST OF DATES

SLP(C) No. 33599/2025 (IV-D)

IA No. 63542/2026 - APPROPRIATE ORDERS/DIRECTIONS

SLP(C) No. 32267/2025 (IV-D)

SLP(C) No. 34611-34612/2025 (IV-D)

FOR ADMISSION and I.R.

SLP(C) No. 1812/2026 (IV-B)

SLP(C) No. 3897/2026 (IV-B)

SLP(C) No. 3900-3901/2026 (IV-B)

SLP(C) No. 3903-3904/2026 (IV-B)

SLP(C) No. 5182-5183/2026 (IV-B)

SLP(C) No. 3907-3908/2026 (IV-B)

SLP(C) No. 3911-3912/2026 (IV-B)

SLP(C) No. 3910/2026 (IV-B)

SLP(C) No. 3917-3918/2026 (IV-B)

SLP(C) No. 3915-3916/2026 (IV-B)

SLP(C) No. 14436/2026 (IV-B)

Date : 05-10-2026 These matters were called on for hearing today.

CORAM :

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M.M. SUNDRESH
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE PRASANNA B. VARALE

For Petitioner(s)	Dr. Divya Swamy, Adv. Mr. Yagyawalkya Singh- 3549, AOR Mr. Rishav Ranjan, Adv. Mr. Mayank Madhu, Adv. Ms. Akriti Singh, Adv. Ms. Nidhi Kumar, Adv. Ms. Ananya Y., Adv. Mr. Jayanth Muthuraj, Sr. Adv. Ms. Usha Nandini V., AOR Mr. Biju P Raman, Adv. Mr. John Thomas Arakal, Adv. Mr. Rahat Bansal- 4198, AOR Mr. Harsh Anand, Adv. Mr. Gopi Kishan, Adv. Mr. P. S. Patwalia, Sr. Adv. Mr. Guru Krishna Kumar, Sr. Adv. Mr. Venkita Subramoniam T.r- 1904, AOR Mr. Raman V. R., Adv. Mr. Varun Mudgal, Adv. Mr. Hari Vishnu, Adv. Mrs. Meenakshi Jha, Adv.
For Respondent(s)	Mr. Kamal Sehgal, Sr. Adv. Mr. Harsh Singhal- 3616, AOR Ms. Mugdha Avnish, Adv. Ms. Michelle Zaidi, Adv. Mr. Ajit Sharma- 2060, AOR Mr. Kanchan Kumar Singh, Adv. Mr. Yuvrajsinh C. Solanki, Adv. Mr. Anant Ram Mishra, Adv. Mr. Lareb Habib Ansari, Adv. Ms. Shweta Jain, Adv. Ms. Shivani Singh, Adv. Mr. Ashutosh Senger, Adv. Mr. Rahat Bansal- 4198, AOR Mr. Harsh Anand, Adv. Mr. Gopi Kishan, Adv.

**UPON hearing the counsel the Court made the following
O R D E R**

Leave granted.

The appeals are disposed of in terms of the signed order.

Pending application(s), if any, shall stand disposed of.

**(ASHA SUNDRIYAL)
DEPUTY REGISTRAR**

**(POOJA KOHLI)
COURT MASTER (NSH)**

[Signed order is placed on the file]