

**(2022) 04 PAT CK 0081**

**Patna High Court**

**Case No:** Letters Patent Appeal No. 1128, 1291 Of 2019 In Civil Writ Jurisdiction Case No. 18188 Of 2015

Mira Daruka

APPELLANT

Vs

State Of Bihar

RESPONDENT

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**Date of Decision:** April 26, 2022

**Acts Referred:**

- Constitution Of India, 1950 - Article 136, 226
- Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 - Section 10(1)(c), 11A, 25F, 25FFF

**Hon'ble Judges:** Ashutosh Kumar, J; Anjani Kumar Sharan, J

**Bench:** Division Bench

**Advocate:** Nandlal Kumar Singh, Manish Kumar, Rajeev Nayan, Alok Kumar Sinha, Sushil Kumar Singh, Rohitabh Das, Ajay Kumar Rastogi

**Final Decision:** Disposed Of

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**Judgement**

1. A counter affidavit has been filed in L.P.A. No. 1291 of 2019 by Mr. Nandlal Kumar Singh, the learned Advocate for the respondents, in Court.
2. Let it be taken on record.
3. Heard the learned counsel for the parties.
4. The two Appeals, namely, L.P.A. Nos. 1128 of 2019 and 1291 of 2019 have been taken up together and are being disposed off by this common order.
5. The aforesaid Appeals are on behalf of the employer and the workmen respectively.
6. With respect to removal/retrenchment of seven of the workmen, there was a reference under Section 10(1)(c) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947

(in short, the I.D. Act, 1947) for adjudication whether their termination was justified and if so, what relief could be granted to them.

7. On behalf of the workmen, it was contended before the Tribunal in Reference Case No. 1 of 1997 that they had joined the employer/Gas Agency

between the year 1983 to 1993 and had remained in continuous service till 17.12.1994 when they were terminated, which letter of termination was

found hung over the outer wall of the Gas Agency. It was their consistent case before the Tribunal that they had made complaints to the management

for not being provided with the benefits and facilities in terms of the law applicable to such establishments and they were also not being provided with

minimum wages fixed by the State Government. No service card or attendance register was maintained in the said Gas Agency.

8. When such grievances were not addressed by the employer, the issues were taken before the Labour Department where an attempt was made by

the Conciliation Officer to effect a settlement. Consequently, a tripartite settlement agreement was arrived at. However, before such settlement could

be given effect to, the workmen were terminated from service.

9. It was contended by those workmen that the Gas Agency was closed between 15.12.1994 to 16.12.1994 and when they went to offer their services

on 17.12.1994, they found the letter of termination hung over an outer wall of the Agency. They were not given one month's notice nor were paid

the salary of one month as mandated under Section 25F of the I.D. Act, 1947. There was a specific statement by the workmen before the Tribunal

that they had remained unemployed for all the while.

10. The management/employer firstly contended that the referral to the Labour Court under the I.D. Act, 1947 was wrong and that such dispute could

have been resolved only under the Shops and Establishments Act, 1948. The contention of the workmen that they were not being afforded minimum

wages and privileges and facilities to which they are entitled under the labour laws was sought to be negated by urging that no charter of demand by

them was ever put forth to the employer or in the conciliation proceedings before the Labour Superintendent. In fact, during the conciliation

proceedings, the Labour Superintendent was made aware of the fact that the services offered by the workmen was absolutely deficient. One of them

was found to be issuing refills to consumers without cash-memo, whereas another was charged with issuing domestic consumer cards to persons

without any authorization from the Agency/employer. There were allegations of fake and false receipts and of irregular attendance of those workmen.

No explanation was offered by the workmen for their unauthorized absence. Apart from this, the overall performance of these workmen was

absolutely unsatisfactory and, therefore, their services were done away with as they were only ad-hoc employees.

11. The Tribunal came to the conclusion that since there was an admission on the part of the employer that in the conciliation proceeding before the

Labour Superintendent, the employer had participated and which had ended in a tripartite agreement, the charter of demands of the workmen was

therefore known to the employer. However, the Tribunal did not find any document or evidence to come to any definite finding that the workmen

were given notice of removal or that the requirement under Section 25F of the I.D. Act, 1947 was followed. All the workmen were found to have

worked for more than a year continuously, which fact could not be disputed.

12. The contention of the employer that in case of removal on account of indiscipline, there is no requirement of following the mandate under Section

25F of the I.D. Act, 1947 was rejected and the Tribunal came to the conclusion that the workmen are entitled to full back wages from 17.12.1994 to

the date of payment.

13. What is noticeable in the award is that while deciding Issue No. 2, namely, the relief to which the workmen were entitled, the Tribunal has

categorically held that since they (workmen) had failed to prove that they were not gainfully employed for all this while, therefore no order of

reinstatement was passed.

14. The management/employer of the Gas Agency was directed to pay full back wages to the workmen, who are the appellants/respondents in the

two Appeals referred to above.

15. The management/employer challenged the aforesaid award before this Court vide C.W.J.C. No. 18188 of 2015, which was decided on

05.08.2019. After going through the award and the submissions advanced on behalf of the parties, the learned Single Judge found that since the Gas

Agency had been closed, therefore there was no question of reinstatement of the workmen. The award, therefore, was modified to the extent that in place of reinstatement with back-wages, the employer/management would be required and was directed to pay Rs. 75,000/- by way of compensation to each of the seven workmen. The Executing Munsif, Aurangabad was directed by the learned Single Judge to proceed in the execution matter at the earliest.

16. The aforesaid order passed by the learned Single Judge has been put to challenge by the workmen and the employer, both in these Appeals.

17. In L.P.A. No. 1291 of 2019, preferred by the workmen, Mr. Alok Kumar Sinha, the learned Advocate, has raised the plea that the learned Single

Judge was not correct in holding that the Tribunal had directed for reinstatement of the workmen. The Tribunal had only directed for payment of back

wages from the date of their retrenchment till the date of payment. Thus, there was no need of any modification of the award by the learned Single

Judge with respect to reinstatement.

18. The other ground of assail on behalf of the workmen is that there is nothing on record to indicate the method by which the learned Single Judge

came to a finding that an amount of Rs. 75,000/- to each of the workmen who have been retrenched would suffice and would be proportionate

recompense to the period of service that they have rendered. No effort was made by the learned Single Judge, it has been argued, to find out the

salary of the each of the workmen and the period of service that they had rendered and, thus, the calculation of Rs. 75,000/- is without any foundation

or basis. The workmen were employed at different pay-levels, which was very paltry even with the current standard of payment at the time when

retrenchment was made. Directing for payment of such lump-sum amount, which has been quantified arbitrarily, evinces non-application of mind and

such order cannot be sustained in the eyes of law. If at all the learned Single Judge was of the view that the workmen were wrongly retrenched and

were not compensated in terms of Sections 25F and 25FFF of the I.D. Act, 1947 it was only incumbent upon him to have remitted the matter to the

Tribunal or to have taken upon itself to calculate the amount payable to each of such workmen on the basis of their respective date of entry in service

as well the agreement between the employer and the employees for the monthly remuneration for their services.

19. On the aforesaid two grounds, it has been urged that the order passed by the learned Single Judge cannot be sustained in the eyes of law.

20. As opposed to the aforesaid contention, the employer/appellants, in L.P.A. No. 1128 of 2019, has submitted that the learned Single Judge was

called upon to decide whether the award was justified but he went beyond the mandate and fixed the amount to be paid by the employer by way of

compensation. The fixation of amount according to the employer also is arbitrary and as it does not take into account that the Gas Agency had been

wound up in the month of January, 2009. Prior to its complete closure, one of the partners had died and the remaining working partner had also

tendered his resignation. For all practical purposes, the Gas Agency was not in operation.

21. It has further been urged on behalf of the employer/appellants that on the basis of mere bald statement of the workmen that they were not

gainfully employed in the meanwhile, no such award should have been passed by the Tribunal in the absence of the fact of their non-employment not

being established conclusively.

22. It has further been submitted that neither the Tribunal nor the learned Single Judge took note of the fact that the Agency was inspected by the

HPCL, under whose license the agency had been working, which had found the services offered by the agency deficient mainly on account of the

workmen not doing their duty and indulging in wrong activities, like issuing refills without cash-memo, issuing domestic consumer cards to persons

without any authorization by the company and not remaining present during the service hours. A positive advisory was doled out by the HPCL to

remove the aforesaid workmen.

23. It was thus argued that the award should have been set-aside by the learned Single Judge. Instead, a whopping amount of Rs. 75,000/- has been

ordered to be paid to each of the workmen as compensation for their retrenchment.

24. In support of the aforesaid contention, the employer/appellants has referred to J.K. Synthetics Vs. K.P. Agrawal & Anr. : 2007 (2) SCC 433,

wherein it was held that the manner in which the back wages are being ordered by the Tribunals and Courts, has undergone a significant change and it is no longer an automatic or natural consequence of any reinstatement.

25. While referring to various judgments (refer to U.P. State Brassware Corporation Ltd. Vs. Udai Narain Pandey : 2006 (1) SCC 479; Allahabad Jal

Sansthan Vs. Daya Shankar : 2005 (5) SCC 124 and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan Vs. S.C. Sharma : 2005 (2) SCC 363), the Supreme Court in this

instance found that a person would not be entitled to get something only because it would be lawful to do so. It was observed that if this principle was

followed and applied, the functions of an Industrial Court would lose much of its significance. However, the Bench agreed that there could be no rule

of thumb that in every case where the Industrial Tribunal gives a finding that the termination of service of an employee is in violation of Section 25F of

the I.D. Act, 1947, the entire back wages should be awarded. A host of factors like the manner and method of selection and appointment of such

workmen, the nature of their appointment and other cognate factors have to be weighed and balanced in taking a decision regarding award of back

wages. The length of service would be a very important factor to be taken into account.

26. The Supreme Court also took note of the fact that it was necessary for the Tribunal to factor in the issue of quality of service and the charge

against the employee so terminated. The latest trend, as was noted by the Apex Court in that instance was that the earlier interpretation of law which

leaned in favour of grant of back wages in all cases of illegal termination, fostered indiscipline at the work place/industrial undertakings. With the

change in the economic policy of the country, it was observed that it would be only proper not to allow the employees/workmen to break the discipline

with impunity.

27. However, with respect to the burden of proving the factum of non-employment of the workman during the period for which has not been is not

paid by the employer, it was categorically held that it would be necessary for the employee to plead that he was not gainfully employed from the date

of his termination. While an employee cannot be asked to prove the negative, he has at least to assert on oath that he was neither employed nor

engaged in any gainful business or venture and that he did not have any income. The reverse burden then would shift on the employer.

28. It has further been urged on behalf of the employer/appellants that in the event of the Tribunal not deciding the issues raised by the employer,

namely, the removal because of indiscipline, the nature of employment, the employees not proving to the hilt as to the date of their entry in service or

the quantum of salary paid to them, the learned Single Judge ought not to have himself filled in the gaps and taken a decision without there being any

evidence that the workmen were required to be compensated in view of their termination without following the provisions of Section 25F of the I.D.

Act, 1947. The learned Single Judge ought to have taken note of the fact that the Agency was out of operation; one of the partners had died and the

other had resigned and that the licensor (HPCL) had advised for the removal of those workmen at the earliest as they were found, on inspection, to be

highly deficient in rendering their services.

29. The Tribunal was absolutely unjustified in holding that because of the demands of the employees, the employer chose to terminate their services

without there being any basis for the same. In fact, in the Reference, those were not the issues and while deciding the issue with respect to the

entitlement of the workmen, a very lop-sided approach was adopted by the Tribunal which, in fact, was further exacerbated by a unilateral finding of

the learned Single Judge that workmen would be entitled to an amount of Rs. 75,000/-per month by way of compensation.

30. Mr. Alok Kumar Sinha, the learned Advocate for the employees/appellants however has submitted by referring to Anoop Sharma Vs. Executive

Engineer, Public Health Division No. 1 Panipat (Haryana) : 2010 (5) SCC 497, that the learned Single Judge was not justified in modifying the award

of the Tribunal when there was no direction of any reinstatement. Once there was a finding of the Labour Court on the issue of non-compliance of

Section 25F of the I.D. Act, 1947, which was not without any basis and no error of law apparent on face record could be discerned, the learned Single

Judge ought not to have assumed anything on his own.

31. It has further been argued that the jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution of India with respect to such matters have been clearly defined

and explained by the Constitution Bench in Syed Yakoob Vs. K.S. Radhakrishnan : 1964 (5) SCR 64, wherein it has been held that the jurisdiction

to issue a writ of certiorari and the Court exercising it is not entitled to act as an Appellate Court.

32. The limitations, it has been urged, which have been spelt out in Syed Yakoob (supra) necessarily means that the findings of fact reached by the

Tribunal after appreciating the evidence cannot be re-opened or questioned in writ proceedings, even if there were grave errors of facts. Only in

cases of findings based on "no evidence" that it be regarded as an error of law which only could be corrected by a writ of certiorari.

33. However, while dealing with these category of cases also, the Constitution Bench in Syed Yakoob (supra) has sounded a caution that the

adequacy or sufficiency of evidence led on the point and the inference of fact to be drawn from said findings being in the exclusive domain of the

Tribunal, a writ Court ought not to tinker with the aforesaid findings. It is within these limits that the jurisdiction conferred in the High Courts under

Article 226 to issue a writ of certiorari could be legitimately exercised.

33. On the aforesaid ground, the workmen have urged that once it was found that the retrenchment was not in accordance with Section 25F of the

I.D. Act, 1947, they were required to be taken back in service and given their back wages.

34. It appears that the fact of the company having been wound up though was not brought to the notice of the Tribunal but the Tribunal, in its wisdom,

has only directed for payment of back wages and not for their reinstatement.

35. Would it mean that the Tribunal was cognizant of the complete closure of the Gas Agency?

36. There could be yet another inference from a reading of the award passed by the Tribunal. The last/concluding portion of the award indicates that

because the workmen could not establish the factum of their non-employment during the period that they were out of service of the Agency or that

they were employed at the time when the award was being passed, that no order of reinstatement was passed. In that case, the basis for the direction

to pay Rs. 75,000/- as compensation remains in complete obscurity.



37. The issue with respect to payment of back wages consequent upon reinstatement in service was given an anxious consideration in *Deepali Gundu*

*Surwase Vs. Kranti Junior Adhyapak Mahavidyalaya (D.Ed.): AIR 2014 (Supp) 121*. The issue in the aforesaid case was whether a workman was

entitled to wages for the period during which she was forcibly kept out of service by the management of a school. In that case, the Tribunal had found

that the workman was kept under suspension and was not gainfully employed after the termination of her service and so it was declared that she was

entitled for full back wages. When the aforesaid award by the School Tribunal was put to challenge by the management, the learned Single Judge,

relying upon the judgment in *J.K. Synthetics Vs. K.P. Agrawal (supra)*, set-aside such direction.

38. After referring to several judgments of the Supreme Court and of High Courts, the Supreme Court culled out (paragraph 33 of the judgment)

position of law in that regard, which is as follows:-

i) In cases of wrongful termination of service, reinstatement with continuity of service and back wages is the normal rule.

ii) The aforesaid rule is subject to the rider that while deciding the issue of back wages, the adjudicating authority or the Court may take into

consideration the length of service of the employee/workman, the nature of misconduct, if any, found proved against the employee/workman, the

financial condition of the employer and similar other factors.

iii) Ordinarily, an employee or workman whose services are terminated and who is desirous of getting back wages is required to either plead or at

least make a statement before the adjudicating authority or the Court of first instance that he/she was not gainfully employed or was employed on

lesser wages. If the employer wants to avoid payment of full back wages, then it has to plead and also lead cogent evidence to prove that the

employee/workman was gainfully employed and was getting wages equal to the wages he/she was drawing prior to the termination of service. This is

so because it is settled law that the burden of proof of the existence of a particular fact lies on the person who makes a positive averments about its

existence. It is always easier to prove a positive fact than to prove a negative fact. Therefore, once the employee shows that he was not employed,

the onus lies on the employer to specifically plead and prove that the employee was gainfully employed and was getting the same or substantially similar emoluments.

iv) The cases in which the Labour Court/Industrial Tribunal exercises power under Section 11-A of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and finds that

even though the enquiry held against the employee/workman is consistent with the rules of natural justice and / or certified standing orders, if any, but

holds that the punishment was disproportionate to the misconduct found proved, then it will have the discretion not to award full back wages.

However, if the Labour Court/Industrial Tribunal finds that the employee or workman is not at all guilty of any misconduct or that the employer had

foisted a false charge, then there will be ample justification for award of full back wages.

v) The cases in which the competent Court or Tribunal finds that the employer has acted in gross violation of the statutory provisions and/or the

principles of natural justice or is guilty of victimizing the employee or workman, then the concerned Court or Tribunal will be fully justified in directing

payment of full back wages. In such cases, the superior Courts should not exercise power under Article 226 or 136 of the Constitution and interfere

with the award passed by the Labour Court, etc., merely because there is a possibility of forming a different opinion on the entitlement of the

employee/workman to get full back wages or the employer's obligation to pay the same. The Courts must always be kept in view that in the cases

of wrongful / illegal termination of service, the wrongdoer is the employer and sufferer is the employee/workman and there is no justification to give

premium to the employer of his wrongdoings by relieving him of the burden to pay to the employee/workman his dues in the form of full back wages.

vi) In a number of cases, the superior Courts have interfered with the award of the primary adjudicatory authority on the premise that finalization of

litigation has taken long time ignoring that in majority of cases the parties are not responsible for such delays.

Lack of infrastructure and manpower is the principal cause for delay in the disposal of cases. For this the litigants cannot be blamed or penalised. It

would amount to grave injustice to an employee or workman if he is denied back wages simply because there is long lapse of time between the termination of his service and finality given to the order of reinstatement. The Courts should bear in mind that in most of these cases, the employer is in an advantageous position vis-à-vis the employee or workman. He can avail the services of best legal brain for prolonging the agony of the sufferer, i.e., the employee or workman, who can ill afford the luxury of spending money on a lawyer with certain amount of fame. Therefore, in such cases it would be prudent to adopt the course suggested in Hindustan Tin Works Private Limited v. Employees of Hindustan Tin Works Private Limited (AIR 1979 SC 75) (supra).

vii) The observation made in J.K. Synthetics Ltd. v. K.P. Agrawal (supra) that on reinstatement the employee/workman cannot claim continuity of service as of right is contrary to the ratio of the judgments of three Judge Benches referred to hereinabove and cannot be treated as good law. This part of the judgment is also against the very concept of reinstatement of an employee/workman.

(Emphasis provided)

39. As is noted in the aforesaid set of propositions, the observations made in J.K. Synthetics Ltd. Vs. K.P. Agrawal (supra) on the issue of reinstatement of the employee/workman that they cannot claim continuity of service as of right is contrary to the ratio of the judgments of Larger Benches and, therefore, it cannot be treated as good law.

40. However, we have noticed that this was only with respect to reinstatement which is not the issue before this Court.

41. The Tribunal has not directed for reinstatement nor the workmen claim it as a matter of right. It is one of the major planks of challenge of the workmen that without there being any order with respect to reinstatement in service, the learned Single Judge, while hearing the matter wrongly observed that the Tribunal not consider that the company had already been wound up and, therefore, there could not have been any order of reinstatement. It was thus argued by the workmen that sub silentio, the Tribunal took into account that no reinstatement was possible because of the

closure of the company and, therefore, only directed for payment of back wages in the event of their termination not being in accord with Section 25F of the I.D. Act, 1947.

42. There could be no dispute with respect to the fact that the workmen were not noticed or that the provisions contained in Section 25F of the I.D.

Act, 1947 was ever followed. The natural corollary of this would be that the order of termination would be unsustainable in the eyes of law.

43. However, the issue here is with respect to payment of back wages which has been ordered by the Tribunal and which has been accepted in part by

the learned Single Judge, who has quantified the same and, thereby, modified the award passed by the Tribunal.

44. The appellant/employer was directed to make payment of Rs. 75,000/- to each of the seven terminated employees as part of their back wages and

compensation. This quantification is under challenge by the appellants in both the Appeals. The only ground which has been raised by both the

parties is that there is complete absence of any recognizable indices on which such a figure has been arrived at.

45. On behalf of the workmen, Mr. Alok Kumar Sinha, the learned Advocate, submits that each of the seven employees were working on a different

pay-scales and, therefore, if the Tribunal had awarded back wages to such workmen, it should have been calculated on the basis of the salary being

received by them for the number of years that the employer/organization remained in operation. This was only reasonable when the termination of the

workmen was found to be not in accord with the provisions of the I.D. Act, 1947.

46. The employer, however, has challenged the aforesaid finding on some of the other grounds including the absence of any material which could have

made the learned Single Judge come to a figure of Rs. 75,000/- as reasonable compensation.

47. The other grounds of challenge by the employer is that neither the Tribunal nor the learned Single Judge took note of the fact that the ouster of the

workmen was on account of their indiscipline and not doing their work properly and under the advice of the licensor, namely, the HPCL. Neither the

Tribunal nor the learned Single Judge ever took into account that these workmen were ad-hoc employees, who were only asked to render their

services in the absence of other regular employees, who were either on leave or had left the organization.

48. Mr. Nandlal Kumar Singh, the learned Advocate for the appellant/employer has further argued that the workmen never established before the

Tribunal that they were not gainfully employed after their termination. He further submits that in the award, though there is a reference that the

workmen had denied that they were in employment after their termination from the Gas Agency, but it was never established and, therefore, no

occasion arose for the appellant/employer to have accepted the reverse burden of proving otherwise. He, therefore, concludes that notwithstanding

the judgments in J.K. Synthetics Vs. K.P. Agrawal (supra) and Deepali Gundu Surwase Vs. Kranti Junior Adhyapak Mahavidyalaya (supra), the

situation had not become ripe before the Tribunal for the appellant/employer to have rebutted the contention of the workmen that they were not

gainfully employed after their termination from service.

49. Mr. Singh, thereafter, referred to a latest case of the Supreme Court in Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History, Coimbatore & Anr.

Vs. Dr. Mathew K. Sebastian: 2022 SCC On-line SC 451, where it has been held that once a workman asserts that he remained out of employment

for a particular period and that he was not gainfully employed during the said period, he was not required to lead any further evidence to prove the

negative. However, such workman had to at least assert on oath that he was neither employed nor engaged in any gainful business or venture and that

he did not have any income. Once such an assertion is made, the onus shifts to the employer positively and that the principle of "œno work no pay"œ

in such cases are not applicable.

50. The learned counsel for the employer/appellant has, therefore, red-flagged the issue that mere bald statement that a workman was not gainfully

employed in the interregnum is not sufficient; rather it is to be asserted on oath.

51. In response to the aforesaid argument, Mr. Alok Kumar Sinha, the learned Advocate, submits that any statement made before the Tribunal

assumes the quality of a statement under oath which has been taken note of by the Tribunal.

52. After having heard the counsel for the parties, we are of the considered opinion that the appellant/employer could not demonstrate before the Tribunal that the requirement under Section 25F of the I.D. Act, 1947 was followed. The employer also could not establish that the workmen were removed from service because of the deficiency in the service as for that also, the requirements under the I.D. Act, 1947 had to be fulfilled. Thus, for all practical purposes, if the termination of the workmen was found to be bad and not in accord with the provisions contained in I.D. Act, 1947, the Tribunal was absolutely correct in directing for payment of back wages.

53. We have noted that notwithstanding the Tribunal not having been informed by either of the parties about the current status/position of the employer, no direction was given in the award for reinstatement of the workmen into service.

54. We, therefore, are constrained to take the view that the Tribunal was aware that the company did not exist on the date of passing of the award and, therefore, the back wages meant the wages for the period that the workman would be deemed to have worked till the closure of the company.

55. Be that as it may, considering the fact that the termination of the workmen was found to be bad in the eyes of law and they were directed to be paid their back wages and that the contention of the employer/appellant that the company was wound up on 09.01.2009, we are of the view that for such period the workmen ought to be paid.

56. A chart has been provided by the employer which indicates different pay-scales to each of the seven terminated workmen. They had been terminated on 17.12.1994. The normal way of calculating the back wages would have had been to compute it on the basis of the salary chart brought to our notice.

57. However, since neither was there any positive assertion of the workmen that they were not gainfully employed nor could the same be established by the employer, we are of the view that justice would be met if the amount so fixed by the learned Single Judge, though without any basis, is allowed to be retained in larger interest, keeping in mind that the company also is now wound up and for good number of years, the management had gone into hands of others.

58. We, therefore, affirm that part of the order of the learned Single Judge by which the employer/appellant has been directed to pay Rs. 75,000/- to the terminated workmen.

59. We further direct for expeditious execution of the order passed by the learned Single Judge.

60. Both the Appeals are, accordingly, disposed off.

61. I.A., if any, also stands disposed off.