

**HIGH COURT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR AND LADAKH
ATJAMMU
(through virtual mode)**

CJ Court

Case: PIL No. 16/2018
Along with connected matter.

Balwinder SinghAppellant/Petitioner(s)

Through :- Mr. S S Ahmed, Advocate.
M/s Rahul Raina & Supriya Chouhan,
Advocates.

v/s

State of J&K & ors.Respondent(s)

Through :- Mr. S S Nanda, Sr. AAG
Mr. Vishal Sharma, DSGI.

**CORAM:
HON'BLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE M A CHOWDHARY, JUDGE**

ORDER

17.07.2023

01. Perusal of the Status Report filed by the Deputy Secretary to Government, Health and Medical Education Department, dated 29th May 2023 would indicate the comparative staff strength in the posts of Medical Officers and non – gazetted and Class IV Employees in Jammu Division as well as in Kashmir Division. In respect of the Jammu Division the total sanctioned strength of Medical Officers for all districts is 1390 posts of which 726 posts are in position and remaining 664 posts are lying vacant. Similarly, in respect of non-gazetted and Class IV Employees in Jammu Division out of sanctioned strength 6868, only 4379 are filled up with the remaining 2489 vacant.

02. On the other hand in respect of Kashmir Division total sanctioned strength of Medical Officers is 1467, out of which 1395 are in position and only 72 are lying vacant. Similarly, in case of non-gazetted and Class IV Employees in Kashmir Division, out of sanctioned strength of 8628 posts, 5976 are in

position and 2651 are lying vacant. Thus, it indicates a skewed figure in respect of Jammu Division *vis-a-viz* Kashmir Division.

03. Under these circumstances, we direct the respondent authorities to indicate the steps taken to fill up the large number of vacancies in respect of Medical Officers as well as the non-gazetted and Class IV Employees in Jammu Division as well as the Kashmir Division.

04. Let the same be placed on record by way of an affidavit. The affidavit shall also indicate the steps taken in respect of far flung areas of Districts of Reasi, Poonch, Ramban, Kupwara, Baramulla, etc. where the vacancies appear to be quite significant.

05. Mr. Vishal Sharma, learned Deputy Solicitor General of India, is also directed to furnish necessary information with regard to health care position in respect of Union Territory of Ladakh without fail on the next date.

06. List again on 28th August 2023.

(M A CHOWDHARY)
JUDGE

(N.KOTISWAR SINGH)
CHIEF JUSTICE

SRINAGAR
17.07.2023
SUNITA/PS