

(2003) 11 AHC CK 0132
In the Allahabad High Court
Case No : Writ Petition No. 1110 (M/S) of 2003

Bengal Engineer Group and Centre Employees Union through its General Secretary APPELLANT

Vs

Registrar/Labour Commissioner, Trade Unions, Uttaranchal, Haidwani and another RESPONDENT

Date of Decision : 04-11-2003

Acts Referred:

Constitution of India, 1950 — Article 226, 227
Trade Unions Act, 1926 — Section 11, 4, 5

Citation : (2003) 11 AHC CK 0132

Hon'ble Judges : Rajesh Tandon, J

Final Decision : Dismissed

Judgement

Rajesh Tandon, J.

1. Heard Sri Gopal Narain, learned Counsel for the petitioner and Sri Maulikhi, learned Standing Counsel for the respondent.
2. By the present writ petition, the petitioner has prayed for issue of a writ, order of direction in nature of certiorari quashing the order dated 5th February, 2003 passed by the respondent No. 1.
3. Brief facts giving rise to the writ petitioner are that the petitioner namely Bengal Engineer Group and Centre Employees is a Union of Civil Regimental Employees of M/s. Bengal Engineer Group and Centre, Roorkee, Haridwar, namely, the respondent No. 2.
4. The petitioner has filed an application for registration under Section 5 of the Trade Union Act, 1926 of a Trade Union to the Registrar accompanied by his own consideration which has been annexed as Annexure1 to the writ petition. Paragraph (1) provides the name of the Union as under:
5. Counsel for the petitioner has stated that he has complied with the entire formalities in pursuance of the letter dated 27th August, 2002, which was

received from the office of the Registrar Trade Union, Haldwani and the requisite fee, as required by the Registrar has been submitted.

6. Counsel for the petitioner has stated that on 5th February, 2003, a letter was received from the office of respondent No. 2, where it was mentioned that since, there are 408 working employees and the total number of the Union are 12 only and therefore, the registration in accordance with Section 4 is not possible as there should be minimum number i.e., 100 or 10% of the working employees.

7. Counsel for the petitioner has stated that immediately after receiving the aforesaid letter, the petitioner has clarified the same vide representation dated 24th March, 2003, informing the respondent No. 1 that there are two types of the employees in the establishment, one is civil permanent employees who are in total number of 408 and secondly Civil Regimental Employee who are in total number of 90.

8. The petitioner has stated that the total membership, which has been given is 12 in regard to Civil Regimental Employees. It is fully covered under the Proviso of Section 4 of the Trade Unions Act, 1926.

9. Counsel for the petitioner has stated that he has not been afforded any opportunity before passing of the order dated 5th February, 2003.

10. Section 4 of the Trade Unions Act, 1926, provides the mode of registration which reads as under:

"4. Mode of registration. (1) Any seven or more members of a Trade Union may, be subscribing their names to the rules of the Trade Union and by otherwise complying with the provisions of this Act with respect to registration, apply for registration of the Trade Union under this Act":

Provided that no Trade Union of workmen shall be registered unless at least ten percent, for one hundred of the workmen, whichever is less, engaged or employed in the establishment or industry with which it is connected are the members of such Trade Union on the date of making of application for registration:

Provided further that no Trade Union of workmen shall be registered unless, it has on the date of making application not less than seven persons as its members, who are workmen engaged or employed in the establishment or industry with which it is connected."

11. Section 11 of the Trade Unions Act, 1926, provides the filing of the appeal against the order of the Registrar refusing to register a Trade Union. Section 11 is quoted below:

"11. Appeal (1) Any person aggrieved by any refusal of the Registrar to register a Trade Union or by the withdrawal or cancellation of a certificate of registration may, within such period as may be prescribed, appeal

(a) Where the head office of the Trade Union is situated within the limits of a Presidency Town to the High Court; or

(aa) Where the head office is situated in an area, falling within the jurisdiction of a Labour Court or an Industrial Tribunal, to that Court or Tribunal, as the case may be;

(b) Where the head office is situated in any area, to such Court, not inferior to the Court of an Additional or Assistant Judge of a Principal Civil Court of original jurisdiction, as the (Appropriate Government) may appoint in this behalf for that area.

(2) The Appellate Court may dismiss the appeal. Or pass an order directing the Registrar to register the Union and to issue a certificate of registration under the provisions of Section 9 or setting aside the order or withdrawal or cancellation of the certificate, as the case may be and the Registrar shall comply with such order.

(3) For the purpose of an appeal under subsection (1) an Appellate Court shall, so far as may be, follow the same procedure and have the same power as it follows and has when trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908), and may direct by whom the whole or any part of the costs of the appeal shall be paid, and such costs shall be recovered as if they had been awarded in suit under the said Code.

(4) In the event of dismissal of an appeal by any Court appointed under clause (b) of subsection (1) the person aggrieved shall have a right of appeal to the High Court and the High Court shall, for the purpose of such appeal, have all the powers on an Appellate Court under subsections (2) and (3), and the provisions of those subsections shall apply accordingly."

12. Since, the alternative remedy is available to the petitioner under Section 11 of the Act no interference under Articles 226/227 can be made in the writ petition.

13. Since, the petitioner has already made a representation, being Annexure No. 7 to the writ petition he may file an appeal alongwith the copy of the representation before the Appellate Authority who shall decide in accordance with procedure prescribed under Section 11 of the Act.

14. If the petitioner files the appeal alongwith the copy of the representation, which he has already filed, well within time, the Appellate Authority shall not reject the appeal on account of the fact that the appeal has been filed beyond time. The petitioner may prefer the appeal within a period of two weeks from obtaining certified copy of this order and the same shall be decided on merits by the Appellate Authority in accordance with law. The appeal shall be decided within a period of one month from the date of filing of the appeal.

15. With the aforesaid observations, the writ petition is dismissed.