

(2007) 10 SC CK 0033

In the Supreme Court Of India

Case No : Civil Appeal No. 4842 of 2007 (Arising out of S.L.P. (C) No. 14352 of 2007)

Shiva Anand

APPELLANT

Vs

Indian Airlines Ltd. and Others

RESPONDENT

Date of Decision : 12-10-2007

Acts Referred:

Citation : (2008) 1 CLT 900 : (2007) 115 FLR 790 : (2008) 1 JKJ 15 : (2007) 13 JT 217 : (2008) 1 LLJ 666 : (2007) 4 PLJR 214 : (2008) 1 SCC 398 : (2008) 1 SCC(L&S) 198 : (2007) 11 SCR 364

Hon'ble Judges : S. B. Sinha, J;H. S. Bedi, J

Bench : Division Bench

Advocate : K.V. Vishwanathan, Suman Jyoti Khaitan and P.S. Sudheer, for the Appellant; L.N. Rao Lalit Bhasin, Nina Gupta, Akanksha, Neha Sharma, Swigin and Bina Gupta, for the Respondent

Final Decision : Allowed

Judgement

Harjit Singh Bedi, J.—Leave granted.

2. This appeal by special leave is directed against the judgment of the Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court whereby it has set aside the judgment and order of the learned Single Judge dated 2nd August 2002 which in turn had quashed the order of dismissal from service made against the appellant herein and directing his reinstatement with 50% back wages. In the light of what has been stated by the learned Counsel for the parties, we find that a detailed discussion on the matters in controversy would perhaps not be necessary. The bare facts accordingly are being referred to.

3. Shiva Anand, appellant herein, was an employee of the Indian Airlines and posted at Calcutta Airport. In August 1998 he applied for a concessional air ticket for a visit to Delhi and then proceeded to Delhi on 22nd August 1998. On the 28th August 1998 he visited the Australian High Commission in New Delhi and applied for a visa for entry into Australia. On September 2, 1998 he again visited

the Australian High Commission and submitted an employer's certificate allegedly signed by Shri S.K. Basu, Senior Chief Manager of the Indian Airlines certifying that he had been granted privilege leave from September 1, 1998 to October 30, 1998. It appears that in order to verify the correctness of the certificate the Australian High Commission got in touch with the Indian Airlines on which it was revealed that no such certificate had been issued by Shri S.K. Basu. Disciplinary proceedings were accordingly initiated against the appellant for having produced a fake certificate in the name of Shri S.K. Basu and a charge-sheet dated 28th October 1998 was issued to him. After a detailed enquiry which the appellant repeatedly tried to obstruct, the enquiry officer tendered his report recommending that he be dismissed from service on which the punishing authority passed a final order to that effect. After some litigation between the parties which even brought the parties to this Court, the appellant filed a departmental appeal against the order of dismissal from service. The appeal too was rejected by order dated 18th January 2001. Both the orders were impugned before the learned Single Judge and were quashed leading to the filing of the appeal before the Division Bench which reversed the same and upheld the order of dismissal. It is in these circumstances that the present appeal has been filed by Shiva Anand.

4. We have heard the learned Counsel for the parties at length. We are not inclined to interfere with the order of the Division Bench in the light of the issues that have been raised and the conduct of the appellant in attempting to produce a fake document along with his application for a visa.

5. Faced with this situation, the learned Counsel for the appellant submitted in the alternative that but for one aberration i.e. the present one, the appellant had a uniformly good career for 27 years with the Indian Airlines and his expertise as a highly qualified master technician in Aircraft Engineering had been fully recognized and as the order of dismissal had foreclosed all chances of future employment it was perhaps appropriate that the order of dismissal be modified to one of termination of service so as to enable him to seek employment in some other organization. Mr. Rao, the learned senior counsel for the respondent, Indian Airlines had sought time to take instructions, and has thereafter informed us that the Indian Airlines were inclined to accept the proposal so as to make the appellant eligible for future employment. We accordingly modify the penalty of dismissal to termination of service. We further direct that the sum of Rs.1,00,000/- which has been deposited in this High Court shall be paid to the appellant to defray his expenses.

6. The appeal is disposed of in the above terms.