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\* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI**

+ **W.P.(C) 2353/2024**

**ASLAM & ORS.**

..... Petitioners

Through: **Mr. M.S. Khan, Ms. Neha Khan, Ms. Arshiya and Ms. Shaziya, Advs.**

versus

**GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI & ORS.**

..... Respondents

Through: **Mr. Tushar Sannu and Mr. Sahaj Karan Singh, Advs. for R-1 and 3. Mr. Firoz Iqbal Khan, Adv. for R-2.**

**CORAM:**

**HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE SACHIN DATTA**

**ORDER**

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**19.02.2024**

**CM APPL. 9719/2024 (Exemption)**

Allowed, subject to all just exceptions.

The application stands disposed of.

**W.P.(C) 2353/2024**

1. The petitioners are full time Imams/Moazzins/Muftis at the Mosques registered with the Delhi Waqf Board. It is averred in the petition that the petitioners were appointed as such by the Delhi Waqf Board vide an Engagement Letter/Appointment Letter duly issued in their favour. It is stated that a total of 207 Imams were appointed by the Delhi Waqf Board whereas the number of Muazzins appointed by the Delhi Waqf Board is 73.

2. It is submitted that apart from paying remuneration to the Imams and Muazzins appointed by the Delhi Waqf Board, the Delhi Waqf Board also supports those Imams and Muazzins who are not appointed by the Delhi Waqf Board but by various Managing Committees. There are stated to be



total of 1097 such Imans and equal number of Muazzins.

3. It is submitted that the petitioners have not been paid their salaries since May, 2022 and no reason/justification has been given for the same. Hence, the present petition has been filed seeking appropriate directions in this regard.

4. Issue notice.

5. Learned counsel, as aforesaid, appears and accepts notice on behalf of the respondents.

6. It is stated by learned counsel for respondent no.2/Delhi Waqf Board that Delhi Waqf Board has not received the requisite funds under 'grants in aid', and that the necessary approval/s qua the petitioners is also awaited from the Finance Department, GNCTD. Hence, the delay in release of the salary to the petitioners.

7. Learned counsel for respondent nos.1 and 3 seeks some time to take instructions.

8. Admittedly, salaries were being paid to the petitioners regularly for the period prior to May, 2022. Prima facie, there is no valid justification for withholding the salary of the petitioners since May, 2022.

9. In the circumstances, the Chief Executive Officer/Administrator of Delhi Waqf Board and the Principal Secretary, Department of Finance are directed to convene a meeting and resolve the issue as regards payment of salary to the petitioners. It is hoped and expected that the requisite decision/s shall be taken expeditiously so as to resolve the matter within a period of one week from today.

10. List for reporting compliance on 27.02.2024.

**FEBRUARY 19, 2024/cl**

**SACHIN DATTA, J**