

J&K HC directs state govt to extend PM's job package to Kashmiri Pandits

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SRINAGAR: A single bench headed by Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar of the Jammu and Kashmir high court has directed the state government to consider the plea of valley based Kashmiri Pandits to extend the Prime Minister's package for creation of three thousand government jobs in line with the package for members of other communities.

Kashmir Pandit Sangarash Samiti (KPSS), through Sanjay Kumar Tickoo, had filed a writ petition before the state high court, asking for the share in government jobs for members of the KP community in the valley.

Justice Ramalingam on May 31, 2016 allowed the writ petition with respect to extension of the PM's Package for jobs and rehabilitation to the Kashmiri Pandits , who did not leave the valley following the exodus of majority of their community members, said Tickoo, president of the Samiti.

The KPSS had filed the petition on 30.12.2013, challenging the SRO 412 dated 30.12.2009, with a request that the five hundred and sixty one (561) valley based Kashmiri Pandit community members be included and allowed to apply for jobs and rehabilitation in the package announced by then prime minister Manmohan singh.

The high court on May 31, 2016 has directed the state government to consider the claim of the petitioners in accordance with the rules and to take a decision preferably within a period of six weeks from the date of receipt of the copy of the order.

"The order given by the court vindicates the struggle of the Kashmiri Pandits represented by the KPSS. It is a shot in the arm for us in our ongoing engagement with the state for the rights of valley based Kashmiri Pandits, who suffer precarious existence due to the ongoing conflict for many years," Tickoo said in a statement here.