

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA AT CHANDIGARH

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CWP No.26409-2014

Date of Decision:18.09.2015

REKHA GUPTA

....Petitioner

VERSUS

STATE OF PUNJAB & ORS.

....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE P.B. BAJANTHRI

Present: Mr. Vaneet Soni, Advocate,
for the petitioner.

Mr. Vaibhav Sharma, DAG, Punjab.

P.B BAJANTHRI, J. (Oral)

In this petition, petitioner has prayed for following relief:

“Issue a writ in the nature of mandamus directing the respondents to make the payment of interest @ 18 % on the delayed payment of General Provident Fund of Rs. 33,66,187/- after 01 year and 02 months from the date of retirement of petitioner because admittedly, the petitioner retired on 31.8.2013 (Annexure P-1), whereas the General Provident Fund has been released on 29.10.2014 (Annexure P-6).”

Short reply by way of affidavit of Dr. Usha Bansal, Director Health Service (S.I.) Punjab, Chandigarh on behalf of respondents No. 1 to 3 has been filed today in the Court by learned State Counsel and the same is taken on record.

The grievance of the petitioner is non settlement of retiral benefits. Pursuant to retirement of the petitioner, the respondents have

sanctioned GPF on 15.04.2014. The same was not given effect due to some administrative reasons. Thereafter on 04.08.2014 revised sanction of GPF was ordered. Consequently on 29.10.2014 GPF amount of Rs.33,66,187/- was released.

The short question for consideration is whether the petitioner is entitled to interest on belated settlement of aforesaid amount for the period of 01 year and 02 months from the date of retirement. No doubt, the petitioner retired on 31.08.2013 and GPF amount of Rs. 33,66,187/- was disbursed on 29.10.2014. There is a delay in settling the aforesaid amount. Therefore, the petitioner is entitled to interest on the aforesaid amount @ 9 % per annum for the period from 15.04.2014 to 29.10.2014. The respondents are directed to release the interest amount within a period of **eights weeks** on receipt of certified copy of this order.

The writ petition is, accordingly, disposed of.

18.09.2015*PA***(P.B BAJANTHRI)****JUDGE**