

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED:30.08.2019

Coram

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice V.PARTHIBAN

W.P.No.26389 of 2019

&

W.M.P.No.25748 of 2019

1.S.Vasudevan

2.S.Ramakrishna

3.D.V.Angadi

4.R.Srinivasan

...Petitioners

Vs.

- 1.The Union of India,
rep.by Secretary to Government of India,
Ministry of Labour and Department of Employment,
New Delhi - 110 001.
- 2.Regional PF Commissioner I (Pension),
Office of the Employees Provident Fund Organization,
Bhavishya Nidhi Bhawan,
No.14, Bhikanji Cama Palace,
New Delhi - 110 066.
- 3.Additional Central PF Commissioner - HQ(Pension),
Office of the Employees Provident Fund Organization,
Bhavishya Nidhi Bhawan, No.14,
Bhikanji Cama Palace, New Delhi - 110 066.
- 4.Regional Provident Fund Commissioner,
Office of the Employees Provident Fund Organization,
Bhavishya Nidhi Bhawan, No.37, Royapettah,
Chennai - 600 014, Tamil Nadu.
- 5.Regional Provident Fund Commissioner,
Office of the Employees Provident Fund Organization,
Bhavishya Nidhi Bhawan, NGO "B" Colony,
Thirunelveli - 627 007, Tamil Nadu.

6.Secretary,

M/s.Southern Petrochemical Industries
Corporation Limited (SPIC), 88,
Mount Road, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032.

...Respondents

Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India praying to issue a writ of Certiorari Mandamus calling for the records pertaining to the impugned order issued by the second respondent in No.Pension-I/12/33/EPS/Amendment/96 Vol.II dated 31.05.2017 and quash the same and consequently direct the 5th respondent to grant higher pensionary benefits to the petitioners under Clause 11 (3) of Employees' Pension Scheme 1995, as interpreted, clarified and directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgments dated 31.03.2016 and 04.10.2016 read with approval of the Ministry of Labour and Employment dated 16.03.2017.

For Petitioners .. M/s.Vedavalli kumar

For Respondents .. Mr.T.R.Sundaram
for R1 to R5

ORDER

In a batch of Writ Petitions, similar to the present Writ Petitions, in W.P.No.14368 of 2018, etc., this Court passed detailed directions in para 48 and allowed all the Writ Petitions in para 49, which are extracted as under:

"48. In the above mentioned circumstances, this Court considered the following directions as expedient to resolve the issues as projected in the Writ Petitions.

i) Both the employees of the exempted and unexempted establishments are entitled to the benefit of enhanced pension on the basis of their contribution with reference to actual salary received by them to their Provident Fund accounts;

ii) The cut off date as prescribed i.e. 01.12.2004 is invalid in law and therefore, the same is held to be illegal and invalid;

iii) The employees, namely, the writ petitioners shall be permitted to exercise their option in terms of Proviso to Clause 11(3) of the Pension Scheme and while permitting so, the EPFO is at liberty to seek return of the higher Provident Fund contribution received by the respective employees with simple interest at the rate of 6% p.a. from the date of receipt of Provident Fund amount and till the date of payment;

iv) The amounts to be refunded by the employees concerned shall be verified by the EPFO in consultation with the respective establishments in which the employees were employed;

v) On refund of the verified amount with interest, the EPFO shall calculate and grant enhanced pension on the basis of actual salaries received by the employees with arrears of pension from the date of their retirement and continue to pay their monthly enhanced pension through out their life time;

vi) In case where the refund of the amount by any employee with interest is higher than the enhanced pension with arrears payable to him, the refund shall be insisted upon and in case where the refund, after calculation, is lower than the arrears of pension payable to the employee, the same shall be adjusted while disbursing the arrears to the employees concerned;

vii) The respective Managements of the exempted establishments which maintained the Private Trust are directed to cooperate with the EPFO and render all assistance in quantifying the amount to be refunded by the

respective employees with interest at 6% p.a. on such refund;

viii) The entire exercise shall be initiated and completed by the individual Managements and the EPFO within a period of six months from the date of receipt of a copy of the order.

49. In the result, all the Writ Petitions are allowed on the above terms. The orders of rejection which are impugned in the respective Writ Petitions, are hereby quashed and as regards the Writ Petitions pertaining to the grant of Writ of Mandamus to the authorities for grant of enhanced pension are concerned, the same are allowed as indicated above. No costs. Consequently, all connected WMPs are closed.

2. The reasons and the findings in their entirety as rendered in the batch of Writ Petitions are to be read as part and parcel of the present Writ Petition as well.

3. In the light of the above, this Court is of the view that the above directions and observation will hold good for the present Writ Petition also. Accordingly, the Writ Petition is allowed on the terms as mentioned above. However, there shall be no order as to costs. Consequently, connected writ miscellaneous petition is closed.

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar(CS III)

//True Copy//

Sub Assistant Registrar

mrm

To

1. The Secretary to Government of India,
Ministry of Labour and Department of Employment,
New Delhi - 110 001.

- 2.Regional PF Commissioner I (Pension),
Office of the Employees Provident Fund Organization,
Bhavishya Nidhi Bhawan,
No.14, Bhikanji Cama Palace,
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Bhavishya Nidhi Bhawan, NGO "B" Colony,
Thirunelveli - 627 007, Tamil Nadu.

+4cc to M/s.Vedavalli kumar, Advocate sr.75856

W.P.No.26389 of 2019

vba(co)
nr 24/10/2019