

WPA 10954 of 2020

Dr. Lakshmi Kanta Das

- Versus -

The State of West Bengal & Ors.

Mr. Banshi Badan Maity

.....For the petitioner

Affidavit-of-service filed in Court is kept with the record.

The material facts of the case are admitted and hence I have not called for affidavits.

The petitioner was a Professor of Siksha Sanga Govt. Spons. PTTI who retired from service on 30.06.2018. The petitioner had completed all pension-related formalities. The first pension payment order was issued on 17.01.2019. However, the concerned authorities delayed and revised the gratuity amount on 14.02.2019. The petitioner herein seeks interest to be paid on the gratuity amount for the interim period of delay in receipt of the gratuity amount.

There is a considerable delay in filing of the writ petition, which the petitioner seeks to justify by stating that there is no statutory period of limitation and neither parties have suffered due to this delay. It is the submission of the petitioner that accordingly the petition should be allowed.

The petitioner relies upon an order in W.P. 17557 (W) of 2017 (Narayan Chandra Saha Vs. State of West Bengal

& Ors.) wherein a co-ordinate bench had relied upon the Supreme Court judgement in the case of Union of India Vs. Tarsem Singh, reported in (2008) 8 S.C.C. 648 on the issue of limitation relating to payment or refixation of pay or pension wherein the Apex Court had held that relief may be granted in spite of delay as it does not affect the rights of the third party.

In view of the aforesaid, I direct the Director of Pension, Provident Fund and Group Insurance, Government of West Bengal as also the concerned Treasury Officer to pay interest to the writ petitioner @ 8% per annum on the gratuity amount calculated on and from 01.07.2018 till actual date of payment. Such payment is to be made within eight weeks from the date of communication of this order to the concerned authorities.

This writ petition is, thus, disposed of.

Since no affidavits have been invited, the allegations contained in the writ petition are deemed not to have been admitted by the respondents.

Urgent photostat certified copy, if applied for, be given to the parties on urgent basis.

(Rajarshi Bharadwaj, J.)