

W.P.A. 6982 of 2020
With
IA 1 of 2020

Smt. Kalpana Dey
-versus
The State of West Bengal & Ors.

Mr. Kalipada Das
...For the Petitioner.

The petitioner undertakes to affirm and stamp the petition/application as per Rules within 48 hours of resumption of normal functioning of the court. Subject to such undertaking the instant writ petition along with the connection application is taken up for consideration.

The petitioner an Assistant teacher of a primary school retired from service on 31.03.2010. The grievance of the petitioner is that the gratuity amount was disbursed to her only on 29.08.2014. The petitioner claims interest on delayed payment of the gratuity amount.

In spite of service no one appeared on behalf of the State.

I have heard learned counsel for the petitioner and considered the orders passed by this court in similar facts.

It is settled law that the right of a retired employee to get his retiral dues on the date of attaining superannuation is a valuable right which accrues in his favour on the date of his attaining superannuation. Further, gratuity and pension are no more considered to be a bounty to be handed out by the State at its whim. An employee has a statutory right to receive gratuity

and pension upon retirement. If payment of such gratuity and pension is delayed the retired employee is surely entitled to get some interest for such delayed payment.

In the present case, it was the bounden duty of the State to disburse the gratuity amount on the due date. If it has failed to do so and has released such amount after unexplained delay, it is obliged to pay interest to the retired employee. Pension and gratuity are welfare provisions aimed at maintaining the life of a retired employee and his/her dependents. This is compensatory in nature.

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 at the rate of 6% per annum on the gratuity calculated on and from the due date till the actual date of payment.

Such payment is to be made within eight weeks from the date of communication of the certified copy of this order to the concerned authorities.

Since no affidavit in opposition has been invited, the allegations contained in the writ petition are deemed not be admitted.

W.P.A. 6982 of 2020 along with the connection application being IA 1 of 2020 are disposed of.

There will be no order as to costs.

Urgent photostat certified copy of this order be supplied to the parties, if applied for, as early as possible.

(Amrita Sinha, J.)