

**Calcutta High Court
In the Circuit Bench at Jalpaiguri
Appellate Jurisdiction**

WPA 653 of 2020

Champa Roy
-versus-
The State of West Bengal & Ors.

Mr.Sabita Khutia (Bhunia) ...for the petitioner.

Mr. Subir Kr. Saha

..for the State.

Affidavit of service filed by the learned Advocate for the petitioners in court today be taken on record.

The husband of the petitioner was a Teacher of a Primary School. He died in harness on 08.05.2006. The grievance of the petitioner is that his first Pension Payment order was issued on 15.12.2006 and revised pension payment order in terms of ROPA 1998 was issued on 25.04.2012. He received arrear pension on 30.06.2012 and gratuity on 04.02.2017. The petitioner claims interest on delayed payment of the gratuity and arrear pension.

A number of judgments and orders passed by the different co-ordinate Benches of this Court have been placed, whereby interest had been awarded for delayed payment of gratuity and arrear pension.

It has been held that an employee is legally entitled to get his pensionary benefits including gratuity in due time and for the belated payment of gratuity and the authorities responsible for such belated payment are bound to pay interest thereon.

The doctrine of comity of Court requires that a co-ordinate bench should take consistent and uniform approach towards administration of justice to ensure judicial discipline and certainty.

It is just and proper that the respondents should be directed to pay the petitioner interest on delayed payment of gratuity and arrear pension at the rate of 8% per annum from the date when such amount was payable till the date of actual payment.

Such payment should be made to the petitioner within a period of six weeks from the date of communication of this order.

The writ petition is disposed of without any order as to costs.

Urgent certified Photostat copy of this order, if applied for, be supplied expeditiously to the learned Advocates appearing for the parties on compliance of requisite formalities.

(Kausik Chanda, J.)