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12.03.2020
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**Calcutta High Court
In the Circuit Bench at Jalpaiguri
Appellate Jurisdiction**

WPA 657 of 2020

Rupa Biswakarma
-versus-
The State of West Bengal & Ors.

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

**Mr. Debabrata Dhar
Ms. Paramita Sahu**

..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 Headmaster of a Primary School. He retired from service on 30.09.2012. The grievance of the petitioner is that the gratuity and arrear pension was disbursed to her husband only on 04.11.2013. The husband of the petitioner died on 15.01.2019. 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.)