

20.01.2021
jks
Sl. 375
Ct. 15

W.P.A. 1702 of 2021

**Chhabi Rani Bera
Vs.
The State of West Bengal & Ors.**

Mr. Banshi Badan Maity
.....For the Petitioner

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

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

The petitioner's husband was a Head Teacher of a Primary School who retired from service on 30.09.1997 and died on 16.08.2002. The first pension payment order was issued on 06.11.1998 under the ROPA Rules, 1998 there was revision of the pensionary and gratuity amount payable to the petitioner. The revised pension payment order was issued on 14.02.2002 and the gratuity amount and arrear pension was disbursed on 31.05.2002 in terms of ROPA, 1998. The petitioner claims interest on delayed payment of the revised arrear pension amount.

I have heard learned counsel for both parties and I have considered the orders passed by this court in similar facts. It is settled law that retired employee is entitled to some amount of interest on delayed payment of arrear pension 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 re-fixation 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 revised gratuity and arrear pension amount calculated from 01.04.1998 till actual date of payment.

Such payment is to be made within a period of eight weeks from the date of communication of this order..

This writ petition is disposed of, however, no order as to costs.

Urgent certified website copy of this order, if applied for, be made available to the parties upon compliance with the requisite formalities.

(Rajarshi Bharadwaj, J.)