

20.01.2021
jks
Sl. 386
Ct. 15

W.P.A. 1726 of 2021

Sudarsan Jana
Vs.
The State of West Bengal & Ors.

Mr. Biswajit Mal

.....For the Petitioner

Mrs. Neelam Singh

..For the State

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 was appointed as an Assistant Teacher of a Primary School. The petitioner retired from service on 31.01.1996. The first pension payment order was issued on 31.05.1997 under the ROPA Rules, 1998 there was revision of the pensionary gratuity amount and arrear pension amount payable to the petitioner. The revised pension payment order was issued on 24.04.2003 and the revised gratuity amount and arrear pension was disbursed on 31.08.2003 in terms of ROPA, 1998. The petitioner claims interest on delayed payment of the revised gratuity amount and revised 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 amount and arrear pension amount calculated from 01.04.1998 till the date of actual payment.

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

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

The parties shall act in terms of the copy of the order downloaded from the official website of this Court.

(Rajarshi Bharadwaj, J.)