

WPA 5035 of 2021

Gouri Rani Das

- Versus -

The State of West Bengal & Ors.

Mr. Biswajit Mal

.....For the petitioner

Ms. Tuli Sinha

..For the State

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

The father of the petitioner was an Assistant Teacher of a Primary School who died in service on 28.05.1981 and also mother of the petitioner died on 09.04.1992. The mother of the petitioner had completed all pension-related formalities and pension payment order was issued on 14.05.1987 and after death of the mother of the petitioner the P.P.O issued on 04.10.2016 as widow daughter family pension. However, the concerned authorities delayed and released the family pension amount on 31.12.2016. The petitioner herein seeks interest to be paid on the arrear family pension amount for the interim period of delay in receipt of the arrear family 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 refixation 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 above and after hearing the learned Counsel for the petitioner, 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 arrear family pension amount calculated from 13.04.2010 till the 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 accordingly disposed of without, however, any order as to costs.

Since no affidavit is called for, the allegations made in the writ petition are deemed to have been denied.

Urgent photostat certified copy, if applied for, be given to the parties on urgent basis.

(Rajarshi Bharadwaj, J.)