

19.03.2021
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Sl. 200
Ct. 15

W.P.A. 6991 of 2021

**Souren Dey Sarkar
Vs.
The State of West Bengal & Ors.**

Ms. Sudipa Biswas
.....for the Petitioner

Mr. Gautam Basu
...for the State

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

The petitioner's wife was an Assistant Teacher of a Primary School, Paschim Medinipur,, who died in harness on 08.01.2016. He had completed all pension-related formalities prior to her retirement. However, the concerned authorities delayed and released her gratuity and arrear pension amount on 20.01.2018. The petitioner herein seeks interest to be paid on the gratuity amount for the interim period of delay in receipt of the gratuity and 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 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 petitioner @ 8% per annum on the gratuity and arrear pension amount calculated from 09.01.2016 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 accordingly disposed of without however, any order as to costs.

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

(Rajarshi Bharadwaj, J.)