

13.04.2021
Ct. No. 13
sl.327
sp

**W.P.A. No. 9474 of 2021
(Through Video Conference)**

**Ghanashyam Sarder
Versus
The State of West Bengal & Ors.**

Mr. Tamal Taru Panda

...For the petitioner.

Despite service of notice, none appears on behalf of the State-respondents. Affidavit-of-service filed by the learned Advocate for the petitioner in Court today be kept on record.

The instant writ petition has been preferred challenging the impugned denial of the respondents to pay interest for belated disbursement of the revised benefits of gratuity under the provisions of the Revision of Pay and Allowances Rules, 2009 (hereinafter referred to as the ROPA, 2009).

Counsel appearing for the petitioner submits that the petitioner retired from the post of Chowkider on 28.02.2006 and the first pension payment order was issued on 26.07.2006. Upon revision of pay under the provisions of ROPA, 2009 the pension payment order towards revised benefits was issued and the benefits of revised arrear pension amount were actually disbursed in favour of the petitioner on 14.02.2012.

Counsel for the petitioner further submits that the issue of entitlement towards interest for belated disbursement of the benefits of revised gratuity is no longer *res integra* and in identical matters, this Court has directed payment of interest for belated disbursement of the benefits of revised arrear pension on and from May 19, 2009. In support of such contention reliance has been placed upon a Government Order dated October 21, 2013.

Heard counsel on behalf of the petitioner and considered the materials on record.

In an identical matter, the Court has directed payment of interest for belated disbursement of the benefits of revised arrear pension under ROPA, 2009 on and from May 19, 2009 till the date of actual disbursement of such benefits and as upon acceptance of such direction of the Hon'ble Court, the State authorities have issued the Government Order dated October 21, 2013, question of denial of interest to the petitioner does not occasion and in the said conspectus of facts and as the delay pertaining to disbursement of the revised benefits of gratuity is not attributable to the petitioner, I am of the opinion that the petitioner is entitled to interest for belated disbursement of the benefits of revised arrear pension under ROPA, 2009 on and from the date of retirement till the date of actual disbursement of such benefits.

Accordingly, this Court directs the respondents, particularly concerned Treasury Officer to pay interest to the petitioner at the rate of 8% per annum on the benefits of revised arrear pension amount under ROPA, 2009 calculated on and from May 19, 2009 till the date of actual disbursement of such benefits to the petitioner within a period of ten weeks from the date of communication of this order.

With the above observations, this writ petition is disposed of without any order as to costs.

Urgent certified photostat copy of this order, if applied for, shall be given to the parties as expeditiously as possible on compliance of all necessary formalities.

(Rajasekhar Mantha, J.)