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03.12.2021.
d.p.

**In The High Court At Calcutta
Constitutional Writ Jurisdiction
Appellate Side
(Via Video Conference)**

W.P.A. 17845 of 2021

**Satadal Chakraborty
-versus
The State of West Bengal & Ors.**

**Ms. Sreyasree Choudhury.
...For the Petitioner.**

**Sk. Md. Masud.
...For the State.**

Affidavit-of-service filed in Court today is taken on record.

The husband of the petitioner was an Assistant Teacher. He died-in-harness on 22.09.1997. The first pension payment order was issued on 25.08.1998 and the arrear pension was disbursed on 31.12.1998. Under the ROPA Rules, 1998 there was revision of the pension and gratuity amount payable to the petitioner. The revised pension payment order was issued on 26.03.2002 and the arrear revised pension was disbursed on 17.09.2002 in terms of ROPA 1998. The petitioner claims interest on delayed payment of revised arrear pension.

I have heard learned counsel for the parties and considered the orders passed by this court in similar facts.

It is settled law that the right of a retired employee to get his retiral dues as and when the same becomes

due and payable. If payment of the retiral dues is delayed the heir(s) of the employee is surely entitled to get some interest for such delayed payment.

In the present case, it was the bounden duty of the State to disburse the amount on the due date. If it has failed to do so and has released such amount after unexplained delay, it is obliged to pay interest to the retired employee.

In view of the aforesaid, I direct the concerned Treasury Officer to pay interest at the rate of 7% per annum on the revised arrear pension calculated on and from 01.04.1998 till the date of actual payment.

Such payment is to be made within eight weeks from the date of communication of the certified copy of this order to the concerned authorities.

The concerned respondent authority is directed to take appropriate steps in accordance law against the erring officer(s) for whose fault there has been delay in releasing the retirement benefit to the petitioner.

Since no affidavit in opposition has been invited, the allegations contained in the writ petition are deemed not be admitted.

The writ petition stands disposed of.

There will be no order as to costs.

Urgent photostat certified copy of this order be supplied to the parties, if applied for, as early as possible.

(Amrita Sinha, J.)