

10.12.2021
SL No. 145
Court No. 24
(P.M.)

WPA 18429 of 2021

Sima Bhandari
Vs
The State of West Bengal & Ors.
(Via Video Conference)

Mr. Banshi Badan Maity
... for the petitioner

Mr. Hare Krishna Halder
... for the State

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

The petitioner was an approved Assistant
Teacher and retired from service on 30.04.2019.
The first pension payment order was issued on
10.04.2019 and the arrear pension was
disbursed on 09.05.2019. Under the ROPA
Rules, 2019 there was revision of the pension
and gratuity amount payable to the petitioner.
The revised pension payment order was issued
on 12.02.2021 and the arrear revised pension
was disbursed on 25.02.2021 in terms of ROPA
2019. The petitioner claims interest on delayed
payment of revised gratuity as also 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 retired 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 to the writ petitioner at the rate of 7% per annum on the revised gratuity and revised arrear pension calculated on and from 14.02.2020 till 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 with 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.

W.P.A. 18429 of 2021 is 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.)