

IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA
CONSTITUTIONAL WRIT JURISDICTION
APPELLATE SIDE

WPA 18642 of 2021

Mukut Kanti Naha
Vs.
The Durgapur Projects Limited & Ors.

Mr. Tathagata Deb
... For the Petitioner

Mr. Sujit Shankar Koley
Mr. S.R. Saha
... For the Respondents

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

The petitioner was an employee in Durgapur Projects Limited (in short "DPL"), the respondent no.1. The petitioner retired from service on 31st March, 2014. The petitioner on his retirement was entitled to payment of gratuity and an amount on account of leave salary aggregating to Rs.16,54,736/-. This figure is not in dispute. Out of which, the petitioner was paid Rs.14,09,146/- on 24th November, 2014, Rs.49,794/- on 12th August, 2016 and Rs.1,95,796/- on 24th August, 2016. The dates of payment are also not in dispute. The petitioner says that there has been a delay of about 8 months and 29 months in making of the said sum of Rs.16,54,736/- on account of gratuity and leave salary. The petitioner, therefor, is entitled to interest for delayed payment of gratuity as per the provisions of Section 7(3A) of the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 (hereinafter referred to as the "said Act") and interest on the same rate on leave salary since the same is part of the retiral benefits.

The issues involved in the instant writ petition are squarely covered by a recent judgment and order of this Court dated 9th August, 2021 passed in WPA 11485 of

2021 (Kajal Pal v. The Durgapur Projects Ltd. & Ors.). The consensus between the parties as was in case of Kajal Pal (supra) is also there in the instant case.

As such, this writ petition is disposed of on the similar lines as in Kajal Pal (supra), which are as follows:-

The respondent no.1 is directed to pay interest to the writ petitioner at the rate of 6 per cent per annum on Rs.14,09,146/- calculated from 1st April, 2014 to 24th November, 2014, Rs.49,794/- calculated from 1st April, 2014 to 12th August, 2016 and Rs.1,95,796/- calculated from 1st April, 2014 to 24th August, 2016 being the amounts on account of gratuity and leave salary within a period of six months from the date of communication of a photostat certified copy of this order and in default statutory rate of 10 per cent as in case of gratuity will be attracted on the amounts disbursed on aforementioned three dates, i.e, from 1st April, 2014 to 24th November, 2014, from 1st April, 2014 to 12th August, 2016 and from 1st April, 2014 to 24th August, 2016.

Nothing further remains to be adjudicated in this writ petition. The same is disposed of accordingly without any order as to costs.

Since I have not called for any affidavits, allegations made in the writ petition are deemed to have not been admitted by the respondents.

Urgent photostat certified copy of this order, if applied for, be given to the parties, upon compliance of necessary formalities.

(Arindam Mukherjee, J.)