

**Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court
at Jalpaiguri**

¹⁰⁸
ab 21.04.
2021

W.P.A.899 of 2021

**Prakash Chettri
Versus
The State of West Bengal & Ors.**

Ms. Sabita Khutia (Bhunya)
.....for the petitioner.
Mr. Subir Kumar Saha (AGP)
Mr. Pretom Das
...For the State.

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

The petitioner was an Assistant Teacher of
a Primary School, Darjeeling and retired from service
on 31.10.2018. The first pension payment order was
issued on 23.12.2019. Under the ROPA Rules, 2019
there was revision of pensionary and gratuity amount
payable to the petitioner. The revised pension
payment order was issued on 13.11.2020 and the
revised gratuity and revised arrear pension was
disbursed on 02.02.2021 in terms of ROPA 2019. The
petitioner claims interest on delayed payment of the
revised gratuity and revised arrear pension.

I have heard learned counsel for both
parties and I have considered the orders passed by
this court in similar facts. It is settled law that retired
employee is entitled to some amount of interest on
delayed payment of revised gratuity and revised
arrear pension.

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 of the parties has 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. No. 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 writ petitioner @8% per annum on the principle amount of gratuity and revised arrear pension calculated from 14.02.2020 till the date of 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 disposed of, however, no order as to costs.

Urgent certified website copy of this order, if applied for, be made available to the parties upon compliance with the requisite formalities.

(Rajarshi Bharadwaj, J.)