

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI

W.P.(S). No. 3625 of 2020

Most. Kusum Kumari Devi

..... **Petitioner**

Versus

1. The Union of India, represented through the Chief Personnel Officer, South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach, P.O. Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043, West Bengal.
2. Financial Advisor & Chief Accounts Officer (F.A. & C.A.O.), Pension, Settlement, at Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043, West Bengal.
3. Divisional Railway Manager [D.R.M. (Personne)], Chakradharpur Division at Chakradharpur, P.O. & P.S. Chakradharpur, Dist. West Singhbhum, Jharkhand.
4. Senior Divisional Personnel Officer (Settlement), Chakradharpur Division at Chakradharpur, P.O. & P.S. Chakradharpur, Dist. West Singhbhum, Jharkhand.
5. Divisional Accounts Officer now re-designated as Divisional Finance Manager, Chakradharpur Division at Chakradharpur, P.O. & P.S. Chakradharpur, Dist. West Singhbhum, Jharkhand.
6. The Welfare Inspector, Chakradharpur Division at Chakradharpur, P.O. & P.S. Chakradharpur, Dist. West Singhbhum, Jharkhand.
7. The Chief Manager, State Bank of India, Gulzarbagh, Patna, P.O. & P.S. Gulzarbagh, Patna, Bihar.

..... **Respondents**

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DR. S. N. PATHAK
(Through: Video Conferencing)

For the Petitioner	:	Mr. Niladri S. Mukherjee, Advocate
For the Railway	:	Md. Jalisur Rahman, Advocate
For the Bank	:	Mr. Pratyush Kumar, Advocate

06/ 18.08.2021 Heard the parties.

2. The petitioner has approached this Court with a prayer for direction upon the respondent-Railway for correction in the PPO Book, issued by Railways for getting the benefits of enhanced family pension as well as other benefits viz. issuance of medical card and railway privilege card for which she is entitled in accordance with law.

3. The case of the petitioner lies in a narrow compass. The husband of the petitioner, Rajendra Prasad, Ex-employee of South Eastern Railway died in harness on 04.09.1971 leaving behind his widow (petitioner herein) and one minor son and one minor daughter. The minor son of the petitioner was subsequently appointed on compassionate ground and the petitioner was getting the family pension but she was not facilitated with the medical facilities and Railway privilege pass for which she is entitled in accordance with rules and regulations of Railways. After appointment of her son, the medical facilities given to the petitioner was withdrawn though she was entitled for the same throughout her life as per the rules and regulations. Petitioner

represented before the respondent-authorities for providing medical facilities as well as privilege of passes but the same was denied to her due to certain discrepancies which crept in the PPO, which was issued to the petitioner. Though petitioner represented on several occasions but no heed was paid and as such, she has been constrained to knock the door of this Court.

4. Mr. Niladri S. Mukherjee, learned counsel appearing for the petitioner vehemently argues that petitioner is the widow of deceased employee of Railway and she is entitled for all the privileges including family pension, railway passes as well as medical facilities. Learned counsel further argues that earlier though all the aforesaid privileges was given to her but all of a sudden due to certain discrepancies in the PPO Book, the same has been stopped without any rhyme and reason. Learned counsel further argues that though several representations have been filed by the petitioner but no heed has been paid and a poor widow is running from pillar to post to get her benefits as per her entitlement.

5. On 26.07.2021, this Court specifically directed the learned counsel appearing for the respondent-Railway as well as learned counsel appearing for the respondent-Bank to take immediate steps for rectification of the PPO Book of the petitioner in view of discrepancies crept therein due to which petitioner is being denied the benefits for which she is entitled for in accordance with the rules, norms, standing orders and guidelines of Railways.

However, learned counsel for the petitioner submits that even after rectification, there exists certain discrepancies in the PPO Book.

6. Today, when the case is called-out, an affidavit has been filed by the respondent-Railway wherein it has been clearly mentioned that the discrepancies in the PPO Book has been duly rectified and the same has been sent to the respondent-Bank for necessary action on their behalf.

7. Learned counsel appearing for the respondent-Bank admits that a copy of the rectified PPO has been received from the respondent-Railway, which was also mailed to the petitioner and in view of rectified PPO, the petitioner shall be paid pension at enhanced rate.

8. From perusal of the same, it appears that date of appointment, net qualifying service and old PPO number has not been properly mentioned, rather, a wrong PPO number has been mentioned in the column of old PPO number.

In compliance of the order passed by this Court, the respondents have already taken effective steps for rectification of the date of birth in the PPO, the

same is being appreciated by this Court. However, since an old lady aged about 75 years has knocked the door of this Court for getting the benefits as per her entitlement in accordance with rules and regulations of Railways, I hereby direct the respondent-Railway to take further steps for rectification of the revised PPO Book of petitioner regarding (I) Date of Appointment; (II) Net qualifying service; & (III) Correct number of old PPO.

9. The respondent-Railway shall rectify the aforesaid anomaly a within a period of four weeks from the date of receipt/ production of a copy of this order and thereafter, shall send a copy of the rectified PPO Book to the petitioner as well as to the respondent-Bank within a further period of two weeks.

10. So far as grievance of the petitioner regarding Railway privilege pass and Medical Card are concerned, same shall be issued to her as per her entitlement in accordance with law, if at all the she is entitled for the same.

11. Since the main grievance of the petitioner has already been redressed and the respondent-Railway has already passed order granting pension at enhanced rate, the instant writ application stands disposed of with the aforesaid observations and directions.

(Dr. S.N. Pathak, J.)