



WEB COPY

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 28.10.2021

CORAM

THE HON'BLE MR.JUSTICE C.SARAVANAN

W.P.Nos.23130, 23134, 23137, 23139, 23142, 23143 & 23145 of 2021

(Through Video Conferencing)

1.G.Palanisamy	...Petitioner in W.P.No.23130 of 2021
2.P.Ponraj	...Petitioner in W.P.No.23134 of 2021
3.S.Govindaraj	...Petitioner in W.P.No.23137 of 2021
4.P.Ravikumar	...Petitioner in W.P.No.23139 of 2021
5.N.Chinnakutti	...Petitioner in W.P.No.23142 of 2021
6.A.R.Selvaraj	...Petitioner in W.P.No.23143 of 2021
7.V.Gopal	...Petitioner in W.P.No.23145 of 2021

Vs.

Tamil Nadu State Transport
Corporation (Coimbatore) Limited,
Represented by its Managing Director,
Mettupalayam Salai,
Coimbatore - 641 003.

...Respondent in all W.Ps

Common Prayer : Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of Constitution of India, for issuance of a Writ of Mandamus directing the respondent to pay the petitioners interest at the rate of 6% per annum for the belated payment of the Petitioners Provident Fund, Gratuity and Earned Leave Salary within a specified time.

For Petitioners : Ms.H.Nandhini
(In all W.Ps)

For Respondent : Mr.A.Sundaravadhanam
(In all W.Ps) Standing Counsel

COMMON ORDER

These Writ Petitions have been filed for a Writ of Mandamus, to direct the respondent to pay the petitioners interest at the rate of 6% per annum for the belated payment of Provident Fund, Gratuity and Earned Leave Salary in terms of the decision of the First Bench of the Madurai Bench of this Court in W.A.(MD)Nos.383 to 457 of 2015.



2. The First Bench of the Madurai Bench of this Court, in the above case, has directed the State Transport Corporation to settle the terminal benefits of its employees in 12 equal monthly installments and to pay interest at the rate of 6% on the terminal benefits payable to the workman. The First Bench of the Madurai Bench of this Court has also held that workman is entitled to 18% interest for the defaulted period of installments.

3. It is noticed that though the above observation of the First Bench of the Madurai Bench of this Court was followed by a learned Single Judge in W.P.No.15886 of 2020 vide order dated 19.01.2021, the learned Single Judge has subsequently modified the views in W.P.No.506 of 2021 vide order dated 24.03.2021 considering the constraints of the State Finance due to the outbreak of Covid-19 with the following directions:-

"(i) Respondent/Transport Corporation is directed to pay interest @ 4% per annum to the Petitioner for the belated payment of gratuity, leave salary and communication of pension amount that are yet to be settled, in six equal monthly instalments, commencing 01.04.2021.

(ii) In case of delay in making instalments within the time stipulated supra, with reference to the judgment of the Division Bench of this Court (supra), interest payable for the period of delay shall be at 6% per annum."

4. Considering the same, these Writ Petitions are disposed by directing the respondent to consider the representations of the petitioners and to pay interest at the rate of 4% per annum for the belated payment of Provident Fund, Gratuity, Earned Leave Salary and other legal dues to the petitioners in six equated monthly instalments commencing from 1st December, 2021. No costs.

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar (CCC)

// True Copy //

Sub Assistant Registrar

arb



To

The Managing Director,
Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Coimbatore) Limited,
Mettupalayam Salai,
Coimbatore - 641 003.

+1cc to Mr.V.Ajay Khose, Advocate SR.No.55558

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AK-II (CO)
RVM(29/11/2021)