



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 20.10.2021

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THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE D.KRISHNAKUMAR

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W.P (MD) No.18702 of 2021

B.Padmavathi

... Petitioner

Vs.

1.The Tamil Nadu State Transport
Corporation (Tirunelveli) Ltd.,
Rep. by its Managing Director,
Tirunelveli.

2.The General Manager,
The Tamil Nadu State Transport
Corporation (Tirunelveli) Ltd.,
Tirunelveli Region,
Tirunelveli.

... Respondents

Prayer : Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying this Court to issue a Writ of Mandamus, directing the respondents to settle interest at the rate of 6% per annum for the belated payment of terminal benefits of petitioner's husband Late R.Balaganapathy including Gratuity, Terminal Leave Salary and Provident Fund from the date of his retirement to till the date on which the said benefits were settled to the petitioner.

For Petitioner : Mr.A.Rahul

For Respondents : Mr.R.Rajamohan,
Standing Counsel.

ORDER

This Writ Petition has been filed for the issuance of a Writ of Mandamus, directing the respondents to settle interest at the rate of 6% per annum for the belated payment of terminal benefits of petitioner's husband Late R.Balaganapathy including Gratuity, Terminal Leave Salary and Provident Fund from the date of his retirement to till the date on which the said benefits were settled to the petitioner.

2. Heard the learned counsel appearing for the petitioner and the learned Standing Counsel appearing for the respondents.

3. By consent of both parties, this writ petition is taken up for final disposal at the admission stage itself.



4. The petitioner's husband is a retired employee of the first respondent transport corporation. He retired from service on 30.09.2019. The respondents have settled the retirement benefits to the petitioner only in the month of January 2021.

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5. According to the petitioner, the issues involved in the present writ petition are that the respondents had settled the aforesaid amount belatedly, after a delay of 1 year and the respondents have also not paid interest for the belated payment to the petitioner. Hence, the petitioner has made a representation to the concerned authorities to pay interest at the rate of 6% per annum. The petitioner has also relied on the decision of the earlier writ petition of this court in ***W.P. (MD) No. 19950 of 2020 dated 04.01.2021, J. Gurumoorthy vs TNSTC (Kumbakonam) Ltd.*** In the above referred judgement, this Court has fixed the rate of interest at 6 % per annum for the belated payment of retirement benefits. On the same line, orders to be in the present Writ Petition.

6. Mr.R.Rajamohan, learned Standing Counsel appearing for the first respondent, would submit that the respondents had settled the retirement benefit to the petitioner belatedly. Therefore, the petitioner is entitled for the interest as decided in the earlier writ petition of this Court in W.P. (MD). No. 19950 of 2020.

7. In the light of the above observations and with the consent of both parties, there shall be a direction to the respondents to pay the penal interest at the rate of 6 % per annum on the belated payment of the retirement benefits for the period from the date of the retirement till the date of actual disbursement, as expeditiously as possible and in any event, within a period of four months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order, subject to the condition that if the petitioner has not already given up his right for claiming interest in the retirement benefits.

8. With the above direction, the writ petition stands disposed of. No costs.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar (A.D.I)

// True Copy //

/ /2021

Sub Assistant Registrar (CS)

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Note : In view of the present lock down owing to COVID-19 pandemic, a web copy of the order may be utilized for official purposes, but, ensuring that the copy of the order that is presented is the correct

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copy, shall be the responsibility of the advocate/litigant concerned.

To

1.The Managing Director,
The Tamil Nadu State Transport
Corporation (Tirunelveli) Ltd.,
Tirunelveli.

2.The General Manager,
The Tamil Nadu State Transport
Corporation (Tirunelveli) Ltd.,
Tirunelveli Region,
Tirunelveli.

+1 CC to M/s.A.RAHUL, Advocate (SR-32314[F] dated 22/10/2021)

+1 CC to M/s.R.RAJAMOHAN, Advocate (SR-32163[F] dated 21/10/2021)

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RD/UV(02.11.2021) 3P 5C