

14th March, 2022
(D/L No.15)
(SKB)

W.P.A. 4123 of 2022

Pramila Pradhan
Versus
The State of West Bengal and others

Mr. Satyaranjan Kundu
... for the petitioner.

Affidavit of service is kept on record.

The petitioner's husband was an approved Group-D staff of a college who retired from service on 31.10.2006 and died on 25.10.2011. The petitioner's husband had completed all pension-related formalities prior to his retirement. However, the concerned authorities delayed and released the gratuity and arrear pension amount on 10.04.2017. The petitioner herein seeks interest to be paid on the gratuity and arrear pension amount for the interim period of delay in receipt of the gratuity and arrear pension amount. 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 parties have 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.17557(W) of 2017 (Narayan Chandra Saha Vs. State of West Bengal and others)* wherein a co-ordinate Bench

had relied upon the Supreme Court judgment in the case of *Union of India Vs. Tarsem Singh* reported in (2008)8 SCC 648 on the issue of limitation relating to payment or refixation 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 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 petitioner @ 8% per annum on the gratuity and arrear pension amount calculated from 01.11.2006 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 accordingly disposed of without any order as to costs.

Since no affidavit is called for, the allegations made in the writ petition are deemed to have been denied.

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

(Moushumi Bhattacharya, J.)