

18.08.2022
Court No.13
Item No.707
Saswata

WPA 12530 of 2022

Sobha Sabherwal
VS.
The State Of West Bengal & Ors.

Mr. Chandan Dutta
... for the Petitioner.

Ms. Susmita Biswas Chowdhury
... for the State

Affidavit of service file in Court today is taken on record.

The petitioner was an Assistant Teacher of a high school, who retired on 30.09.2007. The first pension payment order was issued on 27.08.2009 under the ROPA Rules, 1998. The gratuity amount was disbursed on 30.09.2009 in terms of ROPA, 1998. The petitioner claims interest on delayed payment of the gratuity 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 & Ors.) 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 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 parties, 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 amount calculated from the next date of retirement till the date of actual payment. Such payment is to be made within a period of eight weeks from the date of communication of this order.

With these observations, the writ petition is disposed of.

Since, no affidavit-in-opposition has been called for, the allegations made in the writ petition are deemed to have not been admitted by the respondents.

There will be no order as to costs.

Urgent photostat certified copy of this order, if applied for, be given to the parties, on priority basis.

(Rajasekhar Mantha, J.)