

13.04.2022
SL No. 358
Court No. 24
(P.M)

**In The High Court At Calcutta
Constitutional Writ Jurisdiction
Appellate Side**

WPA 19632 of 2021

**Ruby Kanrar
Vs
The State of West Bengal & Ors.**

Ms. Sudipa Biswas
... for the petitioner

Ms. Sutapa Sanyal
Ms. Susnita Saha
... for the State

Affidavit-of-service filed in Court today is
taken on record.

The husband of the petitioner was a Primary
School Teacher who retired from service on
31.01.2020. He died on 06.02.2020. The petitioner
claims that the gratuity amount was disbursed to
her only on 30.09.2021. The petitioner claims
interest on delayed payment of the gratuity amount.

I have heard learned counsel for the petitioner
and considered the orders passed by this court in
similar facts.

It is settled law that the right of a retired
employee to get his retiral dues on the date of
attaining superannuation is a valuable right which
accrues in his favour on the date of his attaining
superannuation. Further, gratuity and pension are
no more considered to be a bounty to be handed out

by the State at its whim. An employee has a statutory right to receive gratuity and pension upon retirement. If payment of such gratuity and pension is delayed the retired employee is surely entitled to get some interest for such delayed payment.

In the present case, it was the bounden duty of the State to disburse the gratuity amount on the due date. If it has failed to do so and has released such amount after unexplained delay, it is obliged to pay interest to the retired employee. Pension and gratuity are welfare provisions aimed at maintaining the life of a retired employee and his/her dependents. This is compensatory in nature.

In view of the aforesaid, I direct the concerned Treasury Officer to pay interest to the writ petitioner at the rate of 5% per annum on the gratuity calculated on and from the due date till the date of actual payment, provided the delay caused was not attributable to the petitioner.

Such payment is to be made within eight weeks from the date of communication of the certified copy of this order to the concerned authorities.

The concerned respondent authority is directed to take appropriate steps in accordance with law against the erring officer(s) for whose fault

there has been delay in releasing the retirement benefit to the petitioner.

Since no affidavit in opposition has been invited, the allegations contained in the writ petition are deemed not to be admitted.

The writ petition stands disposed of.

Urgent photostat certified copy of this order be supplied to the parties, if applied for, as early as possible.

(Amrita Sinha, J.)