

Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri

37.
11.05.2022
Bd.

W.P.A. 516 of 2022

Sharmila Bhandari

-vs-

The State of West Bengal & Ors.

Mr. Deborshi Dhar

....for the petitioner.

Mr. Hirak Barman

Mr. Pretom Das

....for the State.

Affidavit-of-service filed in Court is kept with the record.

Petitioner is the wife deceased retired librarian who superannuated on 31st December, 2016. After retirement of the husband of the petitioner Pension Payment Order was issued vide Memo dated 27th March, 2017. Subsequently husband of the petitioner died on 30th May, 2021. Writ petitioner claims interest on gratuity which has been released belatedly.

State respondents are represented by Mr. Hirak Kumar Barman, learned advocate.

The entitlement of the writ petitioner to interest on delayed payment of gratuity due to superannuation has already been decided in the writ petition being W.P.No.4600(W) of 2019 (***Rabindra Kumar Bhattacharjee vs State of West Bengal and Ors.***) wherein upon placing

reliance on judgment of the Apex Court in the case of ***Union of India vs. Tarsem Singh, reported in (2008) 8 SCC 648*** on condoning delay in approaching the Court for payment of interest on gratuity the said writ petition was allowed by extending the benefit on delayed payment of gratuity upon due consideration of the fact that there is no accrual of third party interest and matter relates to payment of retiral dues.

Taking note of the observations made by the coordinate Bench in the order dated 17th April, 2019 passed in W.P. No. 4600(W) of 2019 (***Rabindra Kumar Bhattacharjee vs. State of West Bengal and Ors.***) this Court finds it apposite to grant interest on gratuity to the writ petitioner due to delay in releasing the said amount.

Accordingly, the Director of Pension Provident Fund and Group Insurance, West Bengal and the concerned Treasury Officer are directed to pay interest at the rate of **Rs.8%** per annum to the writ petitioner on gratuity from the date following the date of retirement of the husband of the petitioner till the date of actual disbursement of the gratuity amount, within a period of eight weeks from the date of communication of this order.

Since no affidavit is called for, the allegations contained in the writ petition are deemed not to have been admitted.

With the above observation, the writ petition stands disposed of.

There shall be no order as to costs.

Urgent photostat certified copy of the order, if applied for, be given to the parties, upon usual undertakings.

(Saugata Bhattacharyya, J.)