



BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED:01.04.2022

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE KRISHNAN RAMASAMY

W.P. (MD) .No. 5933 of 2022

K. Thangaraj

... Petitioner

vs.

The Management of Tamil Nadu
State Transport Corporation
(Tirunelveli)Ltd.,
Thirunelveli Region,
Rep. By its General Manager,
Thirunelveli.

... Respondent

PRAYER: Writ Petition is filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India for issuance of a Writ of Mandamus to direct the respondents to pay the petitioner interest at the rate of 6% per annum, for the period of delay from 01.07.18 to 21.09.19 in paying the amounts paid towards his terminal benefits namely EPF Employee's Contribution, Gratuity and Encashment of Earned/Sick Leaves, within a time frame as may be fixed by this Court.

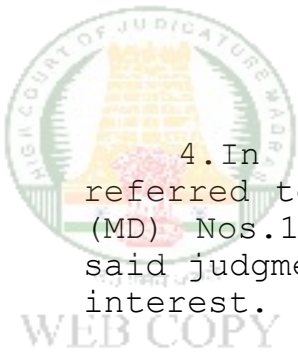
Petitioner	: Mr.S. Arunachalam
Respondent	: Mr. R. Rajamohan

O R D E R

Seeking a direction to the respondents to pay the petitioner interest at the rate of 6% per annum, for the period of delay from 01.07.18 to 21.09.19 in paying the amounts paid towards his terminal benefits namely EPF Employee's Contribution, Gratuity and Encashment of Earned/Sick Leaves, the petitioner is before this Court with the present writ petition.

2.By consent of both sides, the writ petition itself is taken up for final disposal at the stage of admission itself.

3.According to the petitioner, he was working as Special Grade Driver-Level 5 in the respondent corporation. Though he retired on 30.06.2018, on attaining the age of superannuation, his retirement benefits were settled belatedly. Hence, the petitioner has made a representation to the respondents on 22.11.2021, for interest on the belated payment of the terminal benefits. Since the said representation has not been considered so far, the petitioner is before this Court.



4. In this regard, the learned counsel for the petitioner referred to the Division Bench judgment of this Court made in W.A. (MD) Nos.1883 to 1892 of 2021 dated 04.10.2021. Referring to the said judgment, he would submit that the petitioner is entitled to 6% interest.

5. The learned counsel for the respondents submitted that due to financial crisis they may be permitted to pay the interest on the belated payment in monthly instalments.

6. Admittedly, the petitioner was retired from service on 30.06.2018, on attaining the age of superannuation. However, his retirement benefits were settled belatedly.

7. The Division Bench of this Court in the case cited supra has held as follows:

"8. When the appellant is liable to pay the surrender leave salary on the retirement of their employees, the delay in making payment of the leave salary is solely because of the appellants' inaction. The first respondent writ petitioner cannot be penalized for the wrong done by the appellant. Hence, the award of 6% interest on the surrender leave salary by the learned single Judge is perfectly correct. We do not find any ground to interfere with the orders passed by the learned single Judge. The writ appeals are devoid of merits and the same are dismissed. However, we make it clear that the reliefs granted by the learned single Judge in the writ petitions are confined only to the first respondent/writ petitioners, who have filed the writ petitions. No costs. Consequently, connected miscellaneous Petitions are closed."

8. As held by the Hon'ble Division Bench of this Court, when there is a delay in payment of retirement benefits, the employee is entitled for payment along with interest.

9. In view of the above, this Court is of the view that the petitioner is entitled for the interest at the rate of 6% per annum. Therefore, this Court directs the respondents to pay interest at the rate of 6% per annum for the belated retirement benefits including Provident Fund, Gratuity, commuted value of pension and terminal leave salary, from the date of his retirement till the date on which the said terminal benefits were settled to him, on or before 31.07.2022, failing which, the Managing Director or the General Manager (Chief Finance Officer) shall appear before this Court.

10. The Writ Petition is disposed of with the above direction. No costs.



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W.P.(MD).No.5933 of 2022

11.Post this matter on **04.08.2022** 'for reporting compliance'.

Sd/-

Assistant Registrar (CO)

// True Copy //

/ /2022

Sub Assistant Registrar(CS)

RR

To

- 1.The General Manager,
Management of Tamil Nadu State
Transport Corporation
(Tirunelveli)Ltd.,
Thirunelveli Region,
Thirunelveli.
- 2.The Managing Director,
Management of Tamil Nadu State
Transport Corporation
(Tirunelveli)Ltd.,
Thirunelveli Region,
Thirunelveli.
- 3.The Section Officer,Writ Section,
Madurai Bench of Madras High Court,
Madurai.

+1 CC to M/s.R.RAJAMOHAN, Advocate (SR-16208[F] dated 01/04/2022)

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01.04.2022

MGJ(12.04.2022) 3P 5C