



WP(MD)No.14431 of 2022

WEB COPY

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 07.07.2022

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE G.CHANDRASEKHARAN

W.P.(MD)No.14431 of 2022

P.Murugaiah

... Petitioner

Vs.

1.The Management of
State Express Transport Corporation (Tamilnadu) Ltd.,
Rep. by its Managing Director,
Pallavan Salai,
Chennai - 2.

2.The Administrator,
Tamil Nadu State Transport Employees' Pension Fund Trust,
Thiruvallurvar Illam,
Anna Salai,
Chennai - 2.

... Respondents

PRAYER: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India for issuance of Writ of Mandamus, directing the respondents to pay the petitioner interest for the delayed payment of his terminal and pension benefits at the rate of 18% per annum, for the periods of delay from 01.06.2014 to 22.05.2017 in paying EPF Employee's Contribution



WP(MD)No.14431 of 2022

and from 01.06.2014 to 18.01.2015 and from 01.06.2014 to 13.02.2015 and from 01.06.2014 to 10.03.2015 in paying the amount paid towards Gratuity in parts and from 01.06.2014 to 22.06.2017 in paying the amount towards social security scheme benefit and from 01.06.2014 to 03.11.2017 in paying the amount towards Commuted value of pension, within a time frame as may be fixed by this Court and without affecting his right to claim balance amounts towards those benefits.

For Petitioner : Mr.S.Arunachalam

For Respondents : Mr.S.C.Herold Singh
Standing Counsel

ORDER

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

2. Aggrieved against the belated settlement of the terminal benefits to the petitioner, he has claimed interest on the belated payment in this Writ Petition.



WP(MD)No.14431 of 2022

WEB COPY

3. In identical issues, this Court has passed various orders, justifying the payment of interest to the aggrieved pensioners and in the order dated 13.12.2019 in W.P.(MD) No.26481 of 2019, the following order came to be passed:-

“5.I am not in agreement with the said representation made. There was already a duty cast on the respondent Corporation to pay the terminal benefits on the date of retirement itself and the very fact that the belated disbursement of retirement benefit, had already put the retired employee to serious prejudice, entertaining the present request for disbursement of the interest on the belated payment in installments, could cause further prejudice to the retired employee.

6.In the light of the above observations, there shall be a direction to the respondent /Corporation to pay the penal interest at the rate of 6% per annum on the belated payment of the retirement benefits for the period from the date of the retirement, till the date of actual disbursement, as expeditiously as possible and in any event, not before the expiry of three months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.”



WP(MD)No.14431 of 2022

WEB COPY

4. This Court is of the view that the respondents could be directed to pay the interest on the belated payment, at the rate of 6% per annum, as ordered in the above Writ Petition.

5. At this juncture, Mr.S.C.Herold Singh, learned Standing Counsel appearing for the respondent Corporation would submit that owing to the Covid-19 pandemic situation and non-plying of buses for a considerable time, there has been a heavy revenue loss for the Corporation and therefore, the period of payment spread over three months as, ordered in the earlier Writ Petition, can be extended, so as to enable them to pay the interest amount, within a period of six months.

6. The learned counsel for the petitioner also does not have any objections to the same.

7. In this background, there shall be a direction to the respondents to pay the interest to the petitioner at the rate of 6% per annum on the belated payment of the retirement benefits, commencing



WP(MD)No.14431 of 2022

from the date of retirement, till the date of actual disbursement, within a period of three (3) months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

8. This Writ Petition stands allowed in accordance with the above terms. No costs.

07.07.2022

Index : Yes / No
Internet : Yes / No

RM



WEB COPY



WP(MD)No.14431 of 2022

G.CHANDRASEKHARAN, J.

RM

W.P.(MD)No.14431 of 2022

07.07.2022