

07.02.2023
DL-185
(PP)
Ct.21

IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA
CONSTITUTIONAL WRIT JURISDICTION
APPELLATE SIDE

WPA 1452 of 2023

Anirudhya Mukherjee
Vs.
The Durgapur Projects Limited & Ors.

Mr. Tathagata Deb
....for the petitioner.

Mr. S. S. Koley
....for DPL.

Affidavit of service filed in Court today be retained with the records.

The writ petitioner's father was a permanent employee of the Durgapur Projects Limited (in short 'DPL'), which is a Government of West Bengal enterprise. The petitioner's father died-in-harness January 21, 2020.

The gratuity dues of the writ petitioner's deceased father aggregating Rs.11,27,983/- was paid to his wife/petitioner's mother on April 7, 2021. Thereafter, petitioner's mother died on June 3, 2021. Neither quantum of gratuity nor the date of payment is in dispute.

Mr. Deb, learned Counsel, appearing on behalf of the writ petitioner prays for interest on gratuity payable to the writ petitioner, being the only legal heir

of the deceased employee as per Succession Certificate (Succession Case No.70 of 2021) annexed at page 13 of the writ petition, from January 22, 2020 (the date succeeding the date of death of the deceased employee) till April 7, 2021 (the date on which the gratuity dues were actually paid).

The learned counsel appearing on behalf of the writ petitioner also prays for leave salary of his deceased father amounting to Rs.5,71,216.33 which has not been paid till date. He further prays for interest on leave salary, due and payable to the writ petitioner.

The quantum of leave salary due and payable to the petitioner is not in dispute.

The issue has been squarely settled by various Judgements passed by a Co-ordinate Bench of this Hon'ble Court.

Relying on the judgements on the same issue and considering the facts of the case it is directed that the writ petitioner is entitled to get interest on the delayed payment of gratuity dues of his deceased father from January 22, 2020 till April 7, 2021 at the rate of 6% per annum.

The writ petitioner is also entitled to leave salary of Rs.5,71,216.33 of his deceased father and

interest thereon @ 6% per annum from January 22, 2020 till the date on which the actual payment is made.

The respondent authority/DPL is directed to pay the aforesaid payment within six months from date. In the event, the said amount is not disbursed within the stipulated period, the rate of interest will stand enhanced to 10% per annum being the statutory rate under the payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

With the directions aforesaid, the writ petition, being **WPA 1452 of 2023**, is **disposed of**.

Since no affidavits have been called for in the writ petition, the allegations contained therein be deemed not to have been admitted by the respondents.

All parties shall act on the server copies of this order duly downloaded from the official *website* of this Hon'ble Court.

Urgent photostat certified copies of this order, if applied for, be supplied to the parties upon compliance of all necessary formalities.

(Lapita Banerji, J.)