

21.03.2023
(D/L-36)
Ct.-18
(Susanta)

W.P.A. 2946 of 2023

Arati Manna
-Vs-
The State of West Bengal & Ors.

Mrs. Sabita Khutia (Bhunya),
.... For the Petitioner.

Mr. Suman Dey,
.... For the State.

Affidavit-of-service filed by the learned advocate
for the petitioner be kept with the record.

The husband of the petitioner was an Assistant
Teacher, on March 31, 2002 he retired from his said
service on superannuation and he died on April 28,
2021.

The petitioner is claiming that her husband
exercised option to switch over to Pension-cum-
Gratuity from CPF-cum-Gratuity and refunded the
employer's share of contribution with interest and
additional interest within the time limited by the
notification of the Government of West Bengal
bearing No. 749-SE(L)/SL/5S-56/13(Pt-V) dated
June 13, 2014.

The grievance of the petitioner is that the
Pension Payment Order was issued with effect from
the date of the aforesaid refund, instead from the
date following the date of retirement of the employee
concerned on superannuation.

The petitioner by the instant writ petition is
praying for issuance of a writ of mandamus

commanding the respondents to release the arrear family pension from the date following such date of retirement of the employee concerned.

Learned advocate for the State-respondent does not oppose the prayer of the petitioner.

In view of the judgment of the Special Bench of this Court in the case of **DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS(SE), KOLKATA vs. ABHIJIT BAIDYA reported in 2013(3) CHN (CAL) 711** and in view of subsequent clarification of some of the paragraphs of the said judgment by the Special Bench in its order dated **September 30, 2019 on G.A. 464 of 2018**, the issue is no longer res integra.

The petitioner is entitled to the arrear pension, as prayed for. The concerned District Inspector of School (PE) is directed to verify the records expeditiously to ascertain as to whether the employee concerned had exercised the said option and refunded the employer's share of contribution within the time limited by the aforesaid notification dated June 13, 2014.

In the event, it is found that the said option was so exercised, the said authority shall process the claim of the petitioner for arrears of family pension and shall forward the necessary recommendation and/or sanction to the Director of Pension, Provident Fund and Group Insurance, who, in turn, shall take steps to issue Revised Pension Payment Order in favour of the petitioner with effect from the date following the date of retirement of the employee

concerned on superannuation and the concerned Treasury Officer, thereafter shall release the family pension in accordance with the Revised Pension Payment Order.

Entire exercise in this regard is required to be completed within a period of twelve weeks from the date of communication of this order.

W.P.A. 2946 of 2023 stands disposed of with the above directions. There shall be no order as to costs.

Urgent photostat certified copy of this order, if applied for, be supplied to the parties subject to compliance with all requisite formalities.

(Biswajit Basu, J.)