

21-06-2023
Item No.16
Subrata
Bhattacharyya

IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA
Constitutional writ Jurisdiction
Appellate Side

WPA No.14327 of 2023
Gourdas Acharya
-vs-
The State of West Bengal & Ors.

Ms. Arpita Saha ...for the petitioner

None ...for the State

Affidavit of service filed be taken on record. Despite service, none represents the respondents. In view of the above, the writ petition is taken up in the absence of the respondents.

The writ petitioner retired from service on superannuation as a librarian of Nabajug Sangha Library, Habra, North 24 Parganas February 28, 2018. After his retirement, the first pension payment order was issued by the authority concerned on June 18, 2018. Thereafter, since ROPA 2019 came into force on September 16, 2020, the revised pension payment order was issued on September 23, 2021.

The petitioner's case is that though he retired on February 28, 2018, he received payment of his pensionary benefits on August 1, 2018 and while ROPA 2019 was implemented on September 16, 2020, he received the further pensionary benefits in terms of the revised pension payment order on September 25, 2021. Hence he seeks a direction upon the concerned authority to pay interest to him for the belated payment of gratuity and arrear pension.

Learned counsel appearing for the petitioner submits that getting the pensionary benefits is the legal right of the

petitioner and the pensionary amount is not a bounty of the employer. He further submits that as per the nationalised savings scheme for the senior citizens, any deposit made by a senior citizen now carries interest at the rate of 8% p.a. He further submits that had the petitioner received his pensionary benefits in time, the amount which he would have received would carry interest at the rate of 8% p.a. As such, learned counsel prays for interest at the rate of 8% p.a. for the belated payment of pensionary amount.

Having heard learned counsels appearing for the petitioner and on consideration of the documents annexed to the writ petition, I feel that the writ petition may be disposed of by passing the following direction.

Accordingly, the concerned respondent, especially the third respondent – the Treasury Officer, Barasat-II, North 24 Parganas – is directed to pay interest at the rate of 8% p.a. on the delayed payment of gratuity and arrear pension in terms of the first pension payment order from March 1, 2018 and in terms of the revised pension payment order with regard to ROPA 2019 from September 16, 2020 till the date of final payment, within six weeks from the date of communication of this order.

With the aforesaid direction, WPA No.14327 of 2023 stands disposed of. No order as to costs.

All parties are to act on the server copy of this order duly downloaded from the official website of this court.

Certified copy of this order, if applied for, shall be made available to the parties.

[Rabindranath Samanta, J]

