

Ct. 02.01
No. 14 2023
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W.P.A. 28230 of 2022

Amit Kumar Pal

-Versus-

State of West Bengal & Ors.

Ms. Sabita Khutia (Bhunya)

...For the Petitioner

Affidavit-of-Service filed on behalf of the petitioner be taken on record.

Despite service of notice, there is no representation on behalf of the State respondents at the time of call.

The writ petitioner retired from service on superannuation as a librarian of the District Library, 5/4, M.G. Road, 2nd Floor, Howrah, on September 30, 2021. After his retirement, the pension payment order was issued by the authority concerned on February 07, 2022. The petitioner received gratuity amount and pensionary benefits on February 07, 2022.

The petitioner's case is that though he retired from service on September 30, 2021, he received the gratuity amount and the amount of pensionary benefits on February 07, 2022. Hence he seeks a direction upon the concerned authority to pay interest to him for the belated payment of gratuity and pensionary benefits.

Learned Counsel appearing for the petitioner submits that getting the pensionary benefits is the legal right of the petitioner and pensionary amount is his property. He further submits that as per the Nationalised Savings Scheme for senior citizens, any deposit is 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 for the petitioner prayed for interest at the rate of 8% p.a.

Having heard learned counsel 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, P.O. and P.S. Howrah, Howrah – is directed to pay interest at the rate of 8% p.a. on the delayed payment of gratuity and pensionary benefits from October 01, 2021 till the date of final payment, within six weeks from the date of communication of this order.

With the aforesaid direction, WPA No. 28230 of 2022 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.

Urgent photostat copy of the order, if applied for, be supplied to the appellant on priority basis on compliance of necessary formalities, on priority basis.

(*Rabindranath Samanta, J.*)