

IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

156

CWP-23501-2023

Date of Decision: 19.10.2023

Archna Malhotra

...Petitioner

Versus

Punjab National Bank and Others

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE JAGMOHAN BANSAL

Present:- Mr. Amrindra Pratap Singh, Advocate for the petitioner

Mr. Saurav Verma, Advocate with

Ms. Preeti Grover, Advocate for the respondents

JAGMOHAN BANSAL, J. (Oral)

1. The petitioner through instant petition under Articles 226/227 of the Constitution of India is seeking direction to the respondents to pay interest @ 12% per annum on delayed payment of *ex gratia* compensation.

2. The husband (Parveen Malhotra) of the petitioner was working with respondent-bank. He met with a road accident and succumbed to his injuries on 30.10.2009. As per compassionate policy of respondent-bank in vogue, the respondent-bank was supposed to pay a sum of ₹7 Lacs towards *ex gratia* compensation. The petitioner initially insisted for job, however, she in alternative agreed to accept *ex gratia* compensation. The respondent-bank has released *ex gratia* compensation of ₹7 Lacs on 16.02.2023.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioner submits that respondent-bank was supposed to pay *ex gratia* amount in 2009 whereas bank has made payment in 2023. The petitioner is entitled to interest @ 6% per annum from

16.10.2023 passed by this Court in *Ratni Devi and Another v. Punjab National Bank and Another; CWP-11306-2016*.

4. Learned counsel for the respondent-bank submits that petitioner was offered a sum of ₹7 Lacs in 2016, however, she did not come forward to collect the said amount, thus, the petitioner is not entitled to interest.

5. This Court by order dated 16.10.2023 in *Ratni Devi (supra)* has granted interest @ 9% per annum on the delayed payment of compensation, however, in the present case, in view of statement of learned counsels for the parties as well as act and conduct of the petitioner, she is granted interest @ 6% per annum from 20.04.2010 i.e. date of filing application claiming compassionate appointment till the date of demand draft i.e. 09.02.2023. Needful be done within 8 weeks from today.

6. Disposed of in above terms.

(JAGMOHAN BANSAL)
JUDGE

19.10.2023
Mohit Kumar

<i>Whether speaking/reasoned</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>
<i>Whether reportable</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>