

22.05.2024
(D/L 19)
Ct.-18
(Susanta)

IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA
CONSTITUTIONAL WRIT JURISDICTION

WPA 14151 of 2024

Swati Roy

Vs.

The State of West Bengal & Ors.

Ms. Debjani Sengupta,

Ms. Koyel Bag,

Mr. Abhijit Chatterjee,

... For the Petitioner.

Mr. Supriyo Chattopadhyay, Ld. AGP,

Mr. Arindam Ghosh,

... For the State.

Affidavit-of-service filed on behalf of the petitioner be kept with the record.

The petitioner is an approved Assistant Teacher at Barisha Girl's High School, Kolkata, she is alleging that her House Rent Allowance (HRA) was partly paid for the period from August, 2018 to June, 2020, and the same has been completely stopped on and from July, 2020. The petitioner is praying payment of regular HRA and release of arrears thereof with interest.

It appears from the record that the District Inspector of Schools(S.E.), District-Kolkata, the respondent no. 5 herein, in terms of the Memorandum of the Finance Department (Audit Branch), Government of West Bengal bearing No. 5839-F(P) dated July 09, 2012 had issued a general notice bearing No. 524/B dated December 03, 2014 to all Heads of the Institutions/Teachers-in-Charge of the schools. The said respondent, to meet some audit query had issued another similar type of notice bearing Memo No. 2120/M dated December 15, 2017 to recover excess drawal of HRA.

The School authorities, the respondent nos. 6 and 7 herein respectively, responding to the aforementioned Notices, did not pay full HRA to the petitioner for the period from August, 2018 to June, 2020, and has stopped it completely on and from July, 2020.

The school authorities have applied the aforementioned notices of the respondent no. 5 to suspend the HRA of the petitioner

as her husband is an employee of a private company and is receiving HRA as a separate element.

A Coordinate Bench of this Court by the judgment dated March 16, 2021 passed in W.P.A. 1389 of 2018 (*Mousumi Biswas & Ors. vs. State of West Bengal & ors.*) has quashed the said memorandum bearing No. 5839-F(P) dated July 09, 2012 which is the source of the aforementioned notices of the respondent no. 4, therefore the suspension of the HRA of petitioner is not sustainable.

An appeal being **MAT 1023 of 2021** (*The State of West Bengal & Ors. vs. Mita Majumder & Ors.*) against the said judgment and order though is pending, but no order of stay has been passed in the said appeal.

In view of such position of the matter, the petitioner is entitled to the payment of regular HRA and release of arrears thereof, if any.

The concerned authority therefore, is directed to pay to the petitioner the regular HRA and the arrears of it, if any, be paid to her with interest @ 6% per annum from the date on which it was payable till the date of payment.

The arrears HRA is to be paid within a period of four weeks from the date of communication of this order.

It is made clear that HRA to be paid to the petitioner in terms of this order is subject to the result of the aforementioned pending appeal.

Since no affidavit-in-opposition has been invited, the allegations made in the writ petition are deemed to have denied by the respondents.

W.P.A. 14151 of 2024 is disposed with the above terms without any order as to costs.

Parties to act on the server copy of this order duly downloaded from the official *website* of this Court.

(Biswajit Basu, J.)