

Item No.96

16.07.2024
Ct-14

In the High Court at Calcutta
Constitutional Writ Jurisdiction
Appellate Side

WPA 17816 of 2024
Sukumar Chandra Hazra
v.
The State of West Bengal & Ors.

Mr. Sakti Pada Jana
Mr. Subhajyoti Das
... for the petitioner.

Mr. Arindam Chattopadhyay
Ms. Lipika Chatterjee
... for the State

The issue to be decided in the present writ petition is whether an employee will be entitled to receive pension on and from the date following retirement or from the date of refund of the employer's share of contribution.

The wife of the petitioner retired from service on attaining the age of superannuation on 31.10.2013. She died on 15.04.2023.

In response to the notification published by the School Education Department being No. 79-SE(L)/SL/5S-56/13(Pt-V) dated 13th June, 2014 issued in compliance of the direction passed by the Hon'ble Special Bench of this Court in the judgment dated 16th July, 2013 in the matter of District Inspector of Schools (S.E.), Kolkata -vs- Abhijit Baidya the teacher exercised option to switch over from CPF to GPF and refunded the employer's share of contribution with interest and additional interest on 04.09.2014.

Pension Payment Order was issued in favour of the teacher with effect from the date of refund of the employer's share of contribution.

The petitioner claims that pension ought to have been released on and from the next date of retirement and not from the date of refund of the employer's share of contribution.

A similar issue has been decided by this Court in the matter of WPA No. 964 of 2022 (Sitala Mandal (Chaudhuri) –vs- State of West Bengal & Ors.).

Facts being the same, the judgment passed in the aforesaid matter on 8th February, 2022 will cover the present writ petition.

The instant writ petition is disposed of by directing the Director of Pension, Provident Fund and Group Insurance and the concerned Treasury Officer to verify the records, and in the event, it is found, that the teacher exercised option and refunded the employer's share of contribution within the time specified in the notification dated 13th June, 2014, then steps shall be taken to issue Revised Pension Payment Order in favour of the heir(s) of the deceased teacher with effect from the date following the date of retirement on superannuation and to release the pension in accordance with the Revised Pension Payment Order. Such steps shall be taken within a period of twelve weeks from the date of communication of this order. Payment shall positively be released immediately upon issuance of the Revised Pension Payment Order.

For the aforesaid purpose, the DI of Schools concerned shall process the claim for arrears of pension and make/ forward necessary recommendation/

sanction to the DPPG expeditiously. The DPPG in turn shall act based on such recommendation/sanction.

Affidavit of service filed in Court today is taken on record.

WPA 17816 of 2024 is disposed of.

Urgent photostat certified copy of this order, if applied for, be given to the parties on completion of usual formalities.

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(Amrita Sinha, J.)