

06.03.2024
Court No.13
Item No.224
AP

WPA 20684 of 2023

Shibani Gope and Ors.

Vs.

The State of West Bengal and Ors.

Ms. Sudipa Biswas

... For the Petitioners.

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

The husband of the petitioner No.1 was a teacher of a school, who died-in-harness on 10.06.2018. The first pension payment order was issued on 13.02.2019. Under the ROPA Rules, 2019 there was revision of the pensionary and gratuity amount payable to the petitioners. The revised pension payment order was issued on 28.10.2020 and the revised gratuity and revised arrear pension amount was disbursed on 09.12.2020 in terms of ROPA, 2019. The petitioners claim interest on delayed payment of the revised gratuity and arrear pension amount.

There is a considerable delay in filing of the writ petition, which the petitioners seek to justify by stating that there is no statutory period of limitation and neither parties have suffered due to this delay. It is the submission of the petitioners that accordingly the petition should be allowed.

The petitioners relies upon an order in W.P. 17557 (W) of 2017 (Narayan Chandra Saha vs. State of West Bengal & Ors.) wherein a co-ordinate Bench had relied upon the Supreme Court judgment in the case of Union of India vs. Tarsem Singh, reported in (2008) 8 SCC 648 on the issue of limitation relating

to payment or refixation of pay or pension wherein the Apex Court had held that relief may be granted in spite of delay as it does not affect the rights of the third party.

In view of the above and after hearing the learned Counsel for the parties, I direct the Director of Pension, Provident Fund and Group Insurance, Government of West Bengal as also the concerned Treasury Officer to pay interest to the petitioners @ 8% per annum on the revised gratuity and revised arrear pension amount calculated on and from 14.02.2020 till the date of actual payment. Such payment is to be made within a period of eight weeks from the date of communication of this order.

With these observations, the writ petition is disposed of.

Since, no affidavit-in-opposition has been called for, the allegations made in the writ petition are deemed to have not been admitted by the respondents.

There will be no order as to costs.

Urgent photostat certified copy of this order, if applied for, be given to the parties, on priority basis.

(Rajasekhar Mantha, J.)