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W.P.No.16591 of 2022

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS

DATED : 15.03.2024

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE **G.K.ILANTHIRAIYAN**

W.P.No.16591 of 2022

S.Edward

...Petitioner

-Vs-

1. The Principal Secretary to Government,
Environment, Climate Change and Forest
Department, Fort St.George,
Chennai – 600 009.

2. Tamil Nadu Tea Plantation Corporation Ltd.,
represented by its Managing Director,
Orange Grove Road,
Coonoor-643 101.

3. The Divisional Manager,
Tamil Nadu Tea Plantation Corporation Ltd.,
Cherangode Tea Division,
Kolapalli Post,
Pandalur – 643 220.

... Respondents

Prayer : Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of Constitution of India praying for the issuance of a Writ of Mandamus, directing the respondents pay the petitioner a sum of Rs.78,872/- towards difference in Gratuity and a sum of Rs.3,95,744/- towards earned leave salary with 12% interest per annum, for both the amounts and to pay the petitioner interest at the rate of 10% per annum for Rs.9,18,217/- which was paid to the petitioner towards Gratuity belatedly on 05.10.2019, after a delay of 3and half years, award costs.



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For Petitioner : Mr.V.Ajoy Khose
For R1 to R3 : Dr.T.Seenivasan
Special Government Pleader

ORDER

This writ petition has been filed for direction directing the respondents pay the petitioner a sum of Rs.78,872/- towards difference in Gratuity and a sum of Rs.3,95,744/- towards earned leave salary with 12% interest per annum, for both the amounts and to pay the petitioner interest at the rate of 10% per annum for Rs.9,18,217/- which was paid to the petitioner towards Gratuity belatedly on 05.10.2019, after a delay of 3and half years, award costs.

2. Heard the learned counsel on either side and perused the materials available on record.

3. In identical issues, this Court has passed various orders, justifying the payment of interest to the aggrieved pensioners and in the order dated 13.12.2019 in W.P.(MD) No.26481 of 2019, the following order came to be passed :-

“5. I am not in agreement with the said representation made. There was already a duty cast on the respondent Corporation to pay the terminal benefits on the date of



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retirement itself and the very fact that the belated disbursement of retirement benefit, had already put the retired employee to serious prejudice, entertaining the present request for disbursement of the interest on the belated payment in installments, could cause further prejudice to the retired employee.

6. In the light of the above observations, there shall be a direction to the respondent / Corporation to pay the penal interest at the rate of 6% per annum on the belated payment of the retirement benefits for the period from the date of the retirement, till the date of the actual disbursement, as expeditiously as possible and in any event, not before the expiry of three months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order."

4. This Court is of the view that the respondents could be directed to pay the interest on the belated payment, at the rate of 6% per annum, as ordered in the above writ petition.

5. In the light of the above findings, there shall be a direction to the respondents herein to pay the interest on the belated payment of the terminal benefits to the petitioner at the rate of 6% per annum, commencing from the date of the retirement, till the date of actual disbursement, within a period of twelve weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.



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6. With the above directions, this writ petition is disposed of. There shall be no order as to costs.

15.03.2024
(2/5)

Internet: Yes
Index : Yes/No
Neutral Citation: Yes/No
Speaking/Non Speaking order
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To

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