



W.P.(MD).No.4716 of 2024

WEB COPY

BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED : 29.02.2024

CORAM

THE HONOURABLE MRS.JUSTICE L.VICTORIA GOWRI

W.P.(MD).No.4716 of 2024

P.Natarajan

... Petitioner

Vs

1. The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Kumbakonam) Ltd.,
Rep. by its Managing Director,
Kumbakonam.
2. The General Manager,
The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Kumbakonam) Ltd.,
Kumbakonam Region, Kumbakonam – 612 001.
3. The Chief Financial Advisor,
The Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation (Kumbakonam) Ltd.,
Corporate Office, Kumbakonam – 612 001.
4. The Administrator,
The Tamil Nadu State Transport
Corporation Employees Pension Fund Trust,
Thiruvalluvar House, Anna Salai,
Chennai – 600 002.

... Respondents

Prayer : Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying this Court to issue a Writ of Mandamus, directing the Respondents to revise the wages of the petitioner with effect from 01.09.2019 based on the 14th



W.P.(MD).No.4716 of 2024

wage settlement, dated 24.08.2022 and to pay arrears of wages payable from 01.09.2019 to 31.01.2020, difference in Gratuity, difference in Leave Salary and arrears of pension from 01.02.2020 to 28.02.2023 along with the interest at the rate of 12 percent per annum from the date of wage settlement i.e., 24.08.2022 till the date of actual payment.

For Petitioner : Mr. D.Sivaraman

For Respondents : Mr.K.Ramaiah (R1,R2)
Mr.H.C.Herold Singh (R3,R4)
Standing Counsels

ORDER

The present writ petition has been filed seeking a direction to the Respondents herein to revise the wages of the petitioner with effect 01.09.2019 based on the 14th wage settlement dated 24.08.2022 and to pay arrears of wages payable from 01.09.2019 to 31.01.2020, difference in Gratuity, difference in Leave Salary and arrears of pension from 01.02.2020 to 28.02.2023 along with the interest at the rate of 12 percent per annum from the date of wage settlement i.e., 24.08.2022 till the date of actual payment

2.By consent of both parties, considering the limited relief sought for by the petitioner, the Writ Petition is taken up for final disposal at the stage of admission itself.



W.P.(MD).No.4716 of 2024

WEB COPY

3. The petitioner was appointed as Conductor in the respondent Corporation with effect from 17.02.1989. He retired on attaining the age of superannuation as Conductor Level V on 31.01.2020. The respondent Corporation settled his retirement benefits only on 02.06.2021. While so, the 14th tripartite wage settlement under Section 12 (3) of the Industrial Dispute Act was entered into between the Management and the Trade Unions and the settlement was signed on 24.08.2022. As per Clause 1 of the terms of settlement, the Management agreed to revise the wages of the employees those who are in service as on 01.09.2019 by revising the pay by 5% of the earlier wages. As the petitioner retired from service with effect from 30.04.2020, he is covered under the said 14th wage settlement and accordingly, his wages should also be revised based on the said Clause of settlement, dated 24.08.2022 with effect from 01.09.2019. The respondents paid the petitioner's retirement benefits, namely Gratuity, Leave Salary and Pension based on the pre-revised wages. Though the 4th respondent has revised the petitioner's pension from March 2023, based on the said wage revision, they have to pay the difference of pension from February 2020 to February 2023. The respondents 1 and 2 are yet to pay the difference in wages specifically from 01.09.2019 to 31.01.2020, difference in Gratuity and difference in Leave Salary. Hence, the petitioner



W.P.(MD).No.4716 of 2024

submitted a representation to the respondents seeking for revision of his wages based on 14th wage settlement, dated 24.08.2022. However, there was no response. Hence, this writ petition came to be filed.

4. It is needless to point out that whenever a representation of this nature is made to a Statutory Authority, there is a duty cast upon the respondent to consider the same on its own merits and pass appropriate orders in one way or other instead of keeping the same pending indefinitely. As such, nonconsideration of the representation made by the Statutory Authority would amount to dereliction of duty and hence, this Court will be justified in invoking the extraordinary powers under Article 226 of the Constitution of India.

5. This Court hereby direct the respondents to consider the representation made by the petitioner, dated 17.04.2023 and thereafter, revise the wages of the petitioner with effect from 01.09.2019 based on the 14th wage settlement, dated 24.08.2022 and pay the arrears of wages, difference in Gratuity, difference in Leave Salary and arrears of Pension to which he is entitled to along with interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of wage settlement i.e., 24.08.2022 till the date of actual payment. The said



W.P.(MD).No.4716 of 2024

WEB COPY

exercise shall be completed within a period of sixteen (16) weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order.

6. With the above direction, this writ petition stands disposed of.

There shall be no order as to costs.

29.02.2024

NCC : Yes / No
Index : Yes / No
Internet : Yes
PNM



WEB COPY



W.P.(MD).No.4716 of 2024

L.VICTORIA GOWRI, J.

PNM

**ORDER IN
W.P.(MD).No.4716 of 2024**

29.02.2024