



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB & HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH**

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CWP-10616-2024 (O&M)
Date of decision: 16.05.2024

Dr. Navneet Chopra

....Petitioner

Versus

State of Punjab and Others

...Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE AMAN CHAUDHARY

Present : Mr. Nikhil Anand, Advocate for the petitioner

AMAN CHAUDHARY. J. (ORAL)

1. The present petition has been filed for directing the respondents to release the arrears of salary and other dues on account of gratuity, the total amounting to Rs.13,08,000/- to the petitioner.

2. Learned counsel would contend that the petitioner, who was appointed as Lecturer in 2005 and subsequently promoted as Science Professor. He has resigned on 09.03.2022, however, the dues on account of salary and gratuity have not been released without any justification. In this regard, legal notices dated 01.01.2024 and 26.02.2024, Annexure P-7 and P-8 respectively, have been served upon respondents, which have yet not evoked any response. He relies on the judgment passed by Hon'ble the Supreme Court in **Anandi Mukta Sadguru vs. V.R. Rudani and Others**, 1989 (2) SCC 691 to contend that deemed University will come under Article 12 of the Constitution of India, especially in case where the claim is with regard to the release of pending pensionary benefits or arrears of salary. He further submits that similarly situated employees of this respondent-University itself had approached this Court in CWP-30196-2019 and CWP-18058-2021, Annexures P-9 and P-10, with similar prayer and on directions

issued to decide the legal notices, their dues were rightly released. He thus, at this stage, on instructions, submits that the petitioner is sanguine of it being considered in a positive manner, in case, a direction is given to the respondents to decide the same in a time bound manner by granting them an opportunity of hearing.

3. Notice of motion.
4. At the asking of the Court, Mr. Manipal Singh Atwal, DAG Punjab accepts notice on behalf of the respondent-State and has no objection to the limited prayer made.
5. In view of the above and without commenting on the merits of the case, this petition is hereby disposed of with a direction to the respondents to decide the legal notices dated 01.01.2024 and 26.02.2024 expeditiously.

(AMAN CHAUDHARY)

JUDGE

16.05.2024

M.Kamra

Whether speaking/reasoned : Yes / No

Whether reportable : Yes / No