

WPA 15563 of 2024

**Mst. Masheda Khatun
Vs.
The State of West Bengal & Ors.**

Ms. Ria Bhunya

... for the petitioner

Affidavit of service filed in Court today is kept with the record.

The husband of the petitioner was a teacher of a Primary School, who died-in-harness on 25.06.2020. The petitioner had completed all pension related formalities after the death of her husband. The pension payment order was issued on 24.08.2021. However, the concerned authorities delayed and released his gratuity and arrear pension amount on 06.11.2021. The petitioner herein seeks interest to be paid on the gratuity and arrear pension for the interim period of delay in receipt of the gratuity and arrear pension amount.

There is a considerable delay in filing of the writ petition, which the petitioner seeks to justify by stating that there is no statutory period of limitation and neither of the parties have suffered due to this delay. It is the submission of the petitioner that accordingly the petition should be allowed. The petitioner 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 of re-fixation 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 aforesaid, 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 writ petitioner @ 8% per annum on the gratuity and arrear pension amount calculated on and from 26.06.2020 till actual date of payment.

Such payment is to be made within a period of eight weeks from the date of communication of this order.

The writ petition is, thus, disposed of, however, no order as to costs.

Since no affidavit is called for, the allegations made in the writ petition are deemed to have been denied.

All parties shall act in terms of the copy of the order downloaded from the official website of this Court.

(Rajarshi Bharadwaj, J.)