



2025:DHC:2413-DB



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* **IN THE HIGH COURT OF DELHI AT NEW DELHI*****Date of decision: 07.04.2025***

+ W.P.(C) 1139/2025

UNION OF INDIA

.....Petitioner

Through: Ms. Manisha Agarwal Narain,
CGSC with Mr. Nipun Jain,
Adv.

versus

NAVNEET RAJAN WASAN, IPS

.....Respondent

Through: Mr. Anuj Kumar Agarwal and
Dr. Kavita Singh, Advs.**CORAM:****HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE NAVIN CHAWLA****HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE RENU BHATNAGAR****NAVIN CHAWLA, J. (ORAL)****CM APPL. 5603/2025(Exemption)**

1. Allowed, subject to all just exceptions.

W.P.(C) 1139/2025 AND CM APPL. 5602/2025 & CM APPL. 5809/2025

2. This petition has been filed by the petitioner, challenging the Order dated 29.11.2018 passed by the learned Central Administrative Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi (hereinafter referred to as, 'Tribunal') in Original Application No. 4035/2016 (hereinafter referred to as, 'OA') titled *Navneet Rajan Wasan, IPS (Retd), v. Union of India*, whereby the OA filed by the respondent was allowed by the learned Tribunal directing the petitioner to extend the benefit of the Apex Scale of Pay to the respondent, as was done in the cases of Sh. P. Mukherjee and Ms. Meeran C. Borwankar, with the attendant



benefits.

3. It is pertinent to mention here that this petition has been filed with a delay of 1905 days. Therefore, this Court *vide* its order dated 17.02.2025, taking into account such a huge delay, directed the petitioner to file an additional affidavit explaining the reasons for such delay.

4. In confidence of the above order, the petitioners have now filed an affidavit dated 18.02.2025, wherein the only contention raised for explaining the aforesaid delay is as under:

“3. It is respectfully submitted that the present case has worked upon by different Counsels for the Union of India. Appointment/Change in Counsels in the year 2019, 2020 and 2024 has been due to reasons like designation as senior, etc.

4. That vide order dated 30.01.2025, this Hon'ble Court was pleased to give time to file the supplementary affidavit with the better particulars in respect Para 3(p) of the application for condonation of delay in filing the writ petition.

5. On 9.2.2023, Counsel for Union of India sent a legal opinion dated Jan 2023 to the Petitioner. Thereafter, Vide letter No. 1-210232/2016-IPS-III dated 7th March 2024 the Petitioner followed up with the Counsel for the Union of India. In response to the said letter, the Counsel sent an email dated 15 March 2024 reiterating his earlier communication, and also requesting the Petitioner to deliberate about the matter afresh and to send instructions.”

5. We do not find the above explanation sufficient enough to justify such a huge delay that has occurred in filing of the present petition.



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6. The petition is, accordingly, dismissed on account of delay and laches, leaving the question of law open to be determined in appropriate proceedings.

NAVIN CHAWLA, J

RENU BHATNAGAR, J

APRIL 7, 2025

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Click here to check corrigendum, if any