

23.02.2026
Sl. No.61
Ct. No.14
ss

**IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA
CONSTITUTIONAL WRIT JURISDICTION
APPELLATE SIDE**

W.P.A. No. 20455 of 2025

**Ankur Chandra Mahato
Versus
The State of West Bengal & Ors.**

Mr. Satyaranjan Kundu

...for the Petitioner.

Mr. Partha Sarathi Sen Sharma

...for the State.

1. Affidavit of service filed on behalf of the petitioner is taken on record.
2. Report of the District Inspector of Schools (PE), Purulia dated 10th September, 2025, filed by the State is taken on record.
3. By the present writ petition the petitioner seeks direction upon the respondent authorities for disbursement of interest on delayed payment of gratuity and arrear pension amount from the date following the date of retirement of the petitioner till the date of actual payment at the rate of 18% per annum.
4. The petitioner contends that he was a Head Teacher in Keshya Primary School, Village Keshya, P.O. Mahandih, P.S. Kenda, District Purulia, who retired from service on superannuation on 31st January, 2023. The pension payment order was issued in favour of the petitioner on 17th December, 2023. The

gratuity and arrear pension was disbursed in favour of the petitioner on 8th January, 2024. However, no interest on the aforesaid amount has been paid in favour of the petitioner. Hence this writ petition.

5. Mr. Satyaranjan Kundu, learned advocate for the petitioner submits that there is a delay in disbursement of the gratuity and arrear pension amount and as such the petitioner is entitled to receive interest on the delayed payment of gratuity and arrear pension amount. He seeks for appropriate orders.
6. Mr. Partha Pratim Sen Sharma, learned Advocate appearing on behalf of the State submits that the delay in payment of gratuity and arrear pension amount has occasioned due to certain objections which were cleared by the petitioner after considerable time. As such, there is no delay in disbursement of the amount. Accordingly, the petitioner is not entitled to receive any amount.
7. Though there is delay in making such claim, however, delay *per se* cannot defeat the valuable right of the petitioner. Relief may be granted to the writ petitioner in spite of the delay if it does not affect the right of third parties. (See: ***Union of India vs. Tarsem Singh*** reported in **(2008) 3 SCC 648**).
8. From the aforesaid contentions made in the writ petition, it is found that there is considerable delay in

disbursement of the gratuity and arrear pension amount. It is the bounden duty of the State to disburse all the pensionary benefits to the employee forthwith, failing which the employee is entitled to interest on the aforesaid amount.

9. Accordingly, respondent no. 2, the Director of Pension, Provident Fund and Group Insurance, Government of West Bengal and respondent no.3, the Treasury Officer, Purulia, are directed to disburse the interest at the rate of @ 8% per annum on the gratuity and arrear of pension amount in favour of the petitioner by way of pensionary benefits from the date following the date of his retirement till the date of actual payment. Such payment is to be made within a period of eight weeks from the date of communication of this order.
10. Learned advocate appearing for the petitioner is directed to communicate this order to respondent no. 2, the Director of Pension, Provident Fund and Group Insurance, Government of West Bengal and respondent no.3, the Treasury Officer, Manbazar, for necessary compliance.
11. With the aforesaid directions, the writ petition being **WPA 20455 of 2025** is disposed of.
12. Since no affidavit is called for, the allegations made in the writ petition are deemed to have been denied.

13. Consequently, connected applications, if any, stand disposed of.
14. Interim orders, if any, stand vacated.
15. There shall be no order as to costs.
16. Urgent photostat certified copy of the order, if applied for, be given to the parties on compliance of all necessary legal formalities.

(Bivas Pattanayak, J.)