



W.P(MD)No.3185 of 2026

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BEFORE THE MADURAI BENCH OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

DATED: 05.02.2026

CORAM:

THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE B.PUGALENDHI

W.P(MD)No.3185 of 2026

C.Christopher

... Petitioner

Vs.

The Management of
Tamilnadu State Transport Corporation (Thirunelveli) Ltd.,
Nagercoil Region,
Rep.by its General Manager,
Nagercoil.

...Respondent

PRAYER: Writ Petition filed under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, praying this Court to issue a Writ of Mandamus, to direct the respondents to pay the petitioner interest at the rate 18% per annum, for the period of delay from 01.06.2024 to 01.12.2025 in paying the amounts paid towards his terminal benefits namely EPF Employees' Contribution, Gratuity and Encashment of Leaves/Already Surrendered Earned Leaves, within a time frame as may be fixed by this Court and without affecting his right to claim balance amounts towards those benefits.

For Petitioner : Mr.S.Arunachalam

For Respondent : Mr.D.Jebaraj,
Standing Counsel.



W.P(MD)No.3185 of 2026

WEB COPY

ORDER

Seeking interest for the belated payment of terminal and pension benefits, the petitioner has approached this Court.

2.The case of the petitioner is that he joined as a Conductor in the respondent Transport Corporation on 01.01.1997 and retired from service as Special Grade Conductor Level-4 on 31.05.2024. However, the retirement benefits were settled to him only on 02.12.2025. Since the benefits have been settled belatedly, the respondent is liable to pay interest for the belated payment. Therefore, the petitioner gave a representation dated 05.12.2025 to the respondent, however, the same did not evoke any response. Therefore, the petitioner has filed this writ petition for the above said relief.

3.Mr.D.Jebaraj, learned Standing Counsel takes notice on behalf of the respondent and submits that the terminal benefits have been settled to the petitioner, however, belatedly.



4.By consent of both the parties, the writ petition is taken up for final hearing at the admission stage itself.

5.This Court paid its anxious consideration to the rival submissions made and also perused the materials placed on record.

6.The employer is liable to settle the retirement benefits to its employees without any delay and in case, if it is settled belatedly, it has to be compensated by way of interest for the belated payment. In this regard, the Hon'ble Apex Court in *S.K.Dua vs. State of Haryana* reported in 2008 (3) SCC 44, has held as follows:

“14. In the circumstances, prima facie, we are of the view that the grievance voiced by the appellant appears to be well founded that he would be entitled to interest on such benefits. If there are statutory rules occupying the field, the appellant could claim payment of interest relying on such rules. If there are administrative instructions, guidelines or norms prescribed for the purpose, the appellant may claim benefit of interest on that basis. But even in absence of statutory rules, administrative instructions or guidelines, an employee can claim interest under Part III of the



WP(MD)No.3185 of 2026

Constitution relying on Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution.

The submission of the learned counsel for the appellant, that retiral benefits are not in the nature of “bounty” is, in our opinion well founded and needs no authority in support thereof. In that view of the matter, in our considered opinion, the High Court was not right in dismissing the petition in living even without issuing notice to the respondents.”

7.Following the same, in a similar issue, a Division Bench of this Court, in W.A.(MD)No.403 of 2010, etc. batch, vide common order dated 04.07.2014, has fixed the rate of interest at 6% per annum and held as under:-

“5. even though there is no provision in the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation Employees Pension Fund for payment of interest, cannot stand in the light of the law laid down by the Supreme Court in S.K.Dua v. State of Haryana and another, reported in (2008) 3 SCC 44. As a matter of fact, the Rules do not contemplate belated payment of retirement benefits. The Rules contemplate prompt payment. When the Rules contemplate prompt payment and not belated payment, the Rules will not contain a provision for payment of interest. The Pension Fund which was created as a Trust by the Corporation was supposed to act in trust



WP(MD)No.3185 of 2026

WEB COPY

for the employees' benefit. If the Trust could not make payments within the time stipulated, then, irrespective of whether there is any provision for payment of interest or not, the Corporation is obliged to make payment."

8.Following the dictum laid down on this issue, the writ petition is disposed of with a direction to the respondents/Transport Corporation to pay interest for the belated payment of retirement benefits at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of retirement till the date of actual disbursement, within a period of six months from the date of receipt of a copy of this order. No costs.

05.02.2026

NCC: Yes/No

Index:Yes/No

Internet:Yes

gns

To

The Management of
Tamilnadu State Transport Corporation (Thirunelveli) Ltd.,
Nagercoil Region,
Rep.by its General Manager,
Nagercoil.



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W.P(MD)No.3185 of 2026

B.PUGALENDHI, J.

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W.P(MD)No.3185 of 2026

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