



135 IN THE HIGH COURT OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA
AT CHANDIGARH

CWP-10276-2026

Date of Decision : 06.04.2026

UNION OF INDIA AND OTHERS

.....Petitioners

VERSUS

AJAY KUMAR AND ANOTHER

.....Respondents

CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE HARSIMRAN SINGH SETHI
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE DEEPAK MANCHANDA

Present: Ms. Krishna Dayama, Advocate
for the petitioners-Union of India. (*joined through V.C.*)

HARSIMRAN SINGH SETHI, J. (Oral)

1. In the present petition, the challenge is to the impugned order dated 14.12.2023 (Annexure P-1) passed by respondent No.2 – Armed Forces Tribunal, Regional Bench, Chandigarh (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Tribunal), by which, respondent No.1 has been held entitled to benefit of disability element along with benefit of rounding off the disability from 20% to 50% for life w.e.f. 01.07.2021, on the ground that the same is perverse.

2. The only argument raised by learned counsel for the petitioners is that respondent No.1 is neither entitled to the benefit of disability element, nor for the benefit of rounding off the disability pension from 20% to 50% as the same is contrary to assessment made by Medical Board whereby it had been assessed that the disability of “***SEMINOMA (RT) TESTIS (OPTD) STAGE 1A POST ADJT CHEMO***” suffered by respondent No.1 is neither attributable to nor aggravated by military service and the grant of said benefits by Tribunal by placing reliance upon the judgment of the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India in ***Dharamvir***

Singh versus Union of India and others, (2013) 7 SCC 316 and *Union of India and others vs. Ram Avtar*, 2014SCCOnlineSC1761, is incorrect, and the facts of the present case have not been appreciated in correct perspective by the Tribunal while passing the impugned order dated 14.12.2023 (Annexure P-1).

3. We have heard learned counsel for the petitioners and have gone through the case file with her able assistance.

4. It may be noticed that respondent No.1 joined the Armed forces on 13.06.2005 in a fit medical condition. While in service, he suffered a disability of “**SEMINOMA (RT) TESTIS (OPTD) STAGE 1A POST ADJT CHEMO**” which was assessed @20% for life and was assessed to be neither attributable to nor aggravated by military service and ultimately respondent No.1 was discharged from service on 30.06.2021. However, respondent No.1 was not granted the benefit of disability element of disability pension on the ground that the said disability is neither attributable to nor aggravated by the military service.

5. From the perusal of file and arguments advanced, two grievances raised by the petitioners have surfaced: firstly qua grant of disability element of disability pension to respondent No.1 and second, qua grant of benefit of rounding off from 20% to 50% to respondent No.1.

6. With regard to the first grievance of the petitioners, it shall be noted that as per the principle settled by Hon’ble Supreme Court of India in *Dharamvir Singh’s* case (supra), which has also been considered by the Tribunal in the impugned order dated 14.12.2023 (Annexure P-1), any officer serving in the Armed Forces, who had undergone the medical

examination at the time of his/her selection and was not found to be suffering from any such disease at that time on the basis of which, he/she has been discharged from service, such an employee is entitled for the benefit of presumption in his/her favour as per Rule 5 and 9 of 'Entitlement Rules for Casualty Pensionary Awards, 1982' that the said disability has been suffered by the employee during his service career and is, thus, entitled for the benefit of disability pension. The relevant paragraphs of the said judgment are as under:

“30. In the present case it is undisputed that no note of any disease has been recorded at the time of appellant's acceptance for military service. The respondents have failed to bring on record any document to suggest that the appellant was under treatment for such a disease or by hereditary he is suffering from such disease. In absence of any note in the service record at the time of acceptance of joining of appellant it was incumbent on the part of the Medical Board to call for records and look into the same before coming to an opinion that the disease could not have been detected on medical examination prior to the acceptance for military service, but nothing is on the record to suggest that any such record was called for by the Medical Board or looked into it and no reasons have been recorded in writing to come to the conclusion that the disability is not due to military service. In fact, non-application of mind of Medical Board is apparent from Clause (d) of paragraph 2 of the opinion of the Medical Board, which is as follows:

(d) In the case of a disability under C the board should state what exactly in their opinion is the cause thereof. YES ”

31. XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

32. In spite of the aforesaid provisions, the Pension Sanctioning Authority failed to notice that the Medical Board had not given any reason in support of its opinion, particularly when there is no note

of such disease or disability available In the service record of the appellant at the time of acceptance for military service. Without going through the aforesaid facts the Pension Sanctioning Authority mechanically passed the impugned order of rejection based on the report of the Medical Board. As per Rules 5 and 9 of 'Entitlement Rules for Casualty Pensionary Awards, 1982', the appellant is entitled for presumption and benefit of presumption in his favour. In absence of any evidence on record to show that the appellant was suffering from "Genrealised seizure(Epilepsy)" at the time of acceptance of his service, it will be presumed that the appellant was in sound physical and mental condition at the time of entering the service and deterioration in his health has taken place due to service.

33. As per Rule 423(a) of General Rules for the purpose of determining a question whether the cause of a disability or death resulting from disease is or is not attributable to service, it is immaterial whether the cause giving rise to the disability or death occurred in an area declared to be a field service/active service area or under normal peace conditions."

7. In terms of the settled law, learned counsel for the petitioners has not been able to rebut that respondent No.1 is to be held entitled for the grant of disability pension keeping in view the disability suffered, which disability is to be treated as attributable to and aggravated by the military service.

8. Further, with regard to the grievance of petitioners qua the benefit of rounding off of disability from 20% to 50% granted to respondent No.1, the same issue has been settled by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in **Ram Avtar's case (supra)**, wherein it has been held that an Armed Forces personnel is entitled to be granted the benefit of rounding off with regard to disability pension, irrespective of the fact that he was invalidated out of service, or retired

on attaining the age of superannuation or on completion of his tenure of his engagement ,if found to be suffering from some disability which is attributable or aggravated by the Military service. Relevant paras of the judgment in **Ram Avtar's case (supra)**, are as under:-

“4. By the present set of appeals, the appellant(s) raise the question, whether or not, an individual, who has retired on attaining the age of superannuation or on completion of his tenure of engagement, if found to be suffering from some disability which is attributable to or aggravated by the military service, is entitled to be granted the benefit of rounding-off of disability pension. The appellant(s) herein would contend that, on the basis of Circular No. 1(2)/97/D(Pen-C) issued by the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, dated 31.01.2001, the aforesaid benefit is made available only to an Armed Forces Personnel who is invalidated out of service, and not to any other category of Armed Forces Personnel mentioned hereinabove.

5. We have heard learned counsel for the parties to the lis.

6. We do not see any error in the impugned judgment(s) and order(s) and therefore all the appeals which pertain to the concept of rounding-off of the disability pension are dismissed, with no order as to costs.

7. The dismissal of these matters will be taken note of by the High Courts as well as by the Tribunals in granting appropriate relief to the pensioners before them, if any, who are getting or are entitled to the disability pension.”

9. Further, in a recent judgment in **Civil Appeal No.11311 of 2025** titled as **Union of India and others vs. Reet MP Singh and another**, decided on 01.09.2025, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India by placing reliance upon **Ram Avtar's case (supra)**, has again reiterated that the benefit of rounding off the disability element cannot be denied.

10. Learned counsel for the petitioners has not been able to dispute the said proposition of law having been settled by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in ***Ram Avtar's case (supra)*** as well as ***Reet MP Singh's case (supra)*** to the effect that percentage of disability is to be rounded off and when applied in the present case disability of 20% is to be rounded off to 50%.

11. Keeping in view the facts and circumstance of the present case as well as the settled principle of law settled in ***Dharamvir Singh's case (supra)*** and ***Ram Avtar's case (supra)***, respondent No.1 has rightly been held to be entitled to disability pension by rounding off the disability element from 20% to 50% w.e.f. 01.07.2021.

12. No other argument has been raised.

13. Hence, in the absence of any perversity being pointed out in the impugned order dated 14.12.2023 (Annexure P-1) either on the basis of the facts or the settled principle of law, no ground is made out for any interference by this Court in the facts and circumstances of the present case.

14. Accordingly ,the writ petition is dismissed.

15. Pending application(s),if any, stands disposed of.

(HARSIMRAN SINGH SETHI)
JUDGE

06-04-2026
Sapna Goyal

(DEEPAK MANCHANDA)
JUDGE

NOTE: Whether speaking/ reasoned: YES
Whether reportable: NO