

Form No. 4
{See rule 11(1)}
ORDER SHEET
ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL, REGIONAL BENCH, LUCKNOW
Court No.1 (E. Court)

M.A. No. 1864 of 2018 with M.A. No. 1865 of 2018
Inre M.A. No. 101 and 102 of 2018
Inre O.A. No. 49 of 2014

Ex Sep Mahendra Singh
By Legal Practitioner for the Applicant

Applicant

Versus

Union of India & Others
By Legal Practitioner for Respondents

Respondents

Notes of the Registry	Orders of the Tribunal
	<p><u>23.02.2021</u> <u>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava, Member (J)</u> <u>Hon'ble Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve, Member (A)</u></p> <p>On the case being taken up for hearing Col BP Singh (Retd), learned counsel for the applicant and Dr. Shailendra Sharma Atal, learned counsel for the respondents are present.</p> <p>Objection filed by the respondents is taken on record.</p> <p>By order dated 03.07.2014, O.A. No. 49 of 2014 was dismissed for non prosecution and recall application was filed vide M.A. No. 101 and 102 of 2018. The aforesaid MAs were also dismissed vide order dated 26.07.2018 for want of prosecution.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>M.A. No. 1864 of 2018</u></p> <p>There is a delay of 04 years, 03 months and 10 days in filing recall application.</p> <p>Submission of learned counsel for the applicant is that delay in filing of Original Application is not deliberate, but on account of reasons stated in affidavit filed in support of application.</p> <p>Per contra, learned counsel for the respondents submits that cause shown for the delay is not sufficient.</p> <p>Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, we find that cause shown is sufficient.</p> <p>Accordingly, delay is condoned.</p>

M.A. No. 1865 of 2018

This is an application for recall of orders dated 03.07.2014 and 26.07.2018 passed in O.A. No. 49 of 2014 and M.A. No. 102 of 2018 by which the Original Application was dismissed for non-prosecution.

The grounds shown in the recall application seem to be sufficient. Accordingly, the application is allowed and the order dated 03.07.2014 and 26.07.2018 are hereby recalled.

Let the Original Application be restored to its number.

M.A. numbers are disposed off.

O.A. No. 49 of 2014

List on **08.04.2021** for hearing.

(Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve)
Member (A)

(Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava)
Member (J)

rathore

Form No. 4
{See rule 11(1)}
ORDER SHEET
ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL, REGIONAL BENCH, LUCKNOW
Court No.1 (E. Court)

M.A. No. 625 of 2019 Inre O.A. (Nil) of 2019

Ex Hav (Hony Nb Sub) Joginder Singh

Applicant

By Legal Practitioner for the Applicant

Versus

Union of India & Others

Respondents

By Legal Practitioner for Respondents

Notes of the Registry	Orders of the Tribunal
	<p><u>23.02.2021</u> <u>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava, Member (J)</u> <u>Hon'ble Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve, Member (A)</u></p> <p>On the case being taken up for hearing Shri KK Misra, learned counsel for the petitioner and Dr. Shailendra Sharma Atal, learned counsel for the respondents are present.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>M.A. No. 625 of 2019</u></p> <p>The Original Application has been filed with delay of 01 year, 04 months and 09 days.</p> <p>Submission of learned counsel for the applicant is that it is a pensionary matter in which bar of limitation is not applicable. His further submission is that delay in filing Original Application is not deliberate, but on account of reasons stated in affidavit filed in support of application.</p> <p>Per contra, learned counsel for the respondents submits that cause shown by the applicant is not sufficient.</p> <p>Considering that in pensionary matters bar of limitation is not applicable and grounds stated in affidavit filed in support of delay condonation application are genuine and sufficient, delay is liable to be condoned.</p> <p>Accordingly, delay in filing of application is condoned. Application stands decided accordingly.</p> <p>Let Original Application be registered.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>O.A. No. 140 of 2021</u></p> <p>Shri KK Misra, learned counsel for the applicant submits that Original Application may be disposed off with direction to the respondents to revise the pension of applicant in terms of letter No.1(13)/2016/D (Pen/Policy) dated</p>

21.02.2020 issued by Government of India, Ministry of Defence, Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, New Delhi, to which Dr. Shailendra Sharma Atal, learned counsel for the respondents has no objection.

With the consent of learned counsel for the parties, we hereby dispose of the Original Application finally with the direction to the respondents to revise the pension of applicant in terms of letter No. 1(13)/2016/D (Pen/Policy) dated 21.02.2020 issued by Government of India, Ministry of Defence, Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, New Delhi, within a period of three months from the date of receipt of copy of this order and communicate to the applicant accordingly after verifying the documents.

Let a copy of this order be provided to the learned counsel for the parties.

(Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve)
Member (A)

(Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava)
Member (J)

rathore

Form No. 4
{See rule 11(1)}
ORDER SHEET
ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL, REGIONAL BENCH, LUCKNOW
Court No.1 (E. Court)

O.A. No. 62 of 2020 with M.A. No. 952 of 2019

Ex Hav (Hony Nb Sub) Shanti Swarup
By Legal Practitioner for the Applicant

Applicant

Versus

Union of India & Others
By Legal Practitioner for Respondents

Respondents

Notes of the Registry	Orders of the Tribunal
	<p><u>23.02.2021</u> <u>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava, Member (J)</u> <u>Hon'ble Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve, Member (A)</u></p> <p>On the case being taken up for hearing Shri Virendra Kumar Gupta, learned counsel for the applicant and Shri Devesh Kumar Mishra, learned counsel for the respondents are present.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>M.A. No. 952 of 2019</u></p> <p>The Original Application has been filed with delay of 09 years, 11 months and 27 days.</p> <p>Submission of learned counsel for the applicant is that it is a pensionary matter in which bar of limitation is not applicable. His further submission is that delay in filing Original Application is not deliberate, but on account of reasons stated in affidavit filed in support of application.</p> <p>Per contra, learned counsel for the respondents submits that cause shown by the applicant is not sufficient.</p> <p>Considering that in pensionary matters bar of limitation is not applicable and grounds stated in affidavit filed in support of delay condonation application are genuine and sufficient, delay is liable to be condoned.</p> <p>Accordingly, delay in filing of application is condoned. Application stands decided accordingly.</p> <p>Let Original Application be registered.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>O.A. No. 62 of 2020</u></p> <p>Shri Virendra Kumar Gupta, learned counsel for the applicant submits that Original Application may be disposed off with direction to the respondents</p>

to revise the pension of applicant in terms of letter No.1(13)/2016/D (Pen/Policy) dated 21.02.2020 issued by Government of India, Ministry of Defence, Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, New Delhi, to which Shri Devesh Kumar Mishra, learned counsel for the respondents has no objection.

With the consent of learned counsel for the parties, we hereby dispose of the Original Application finally with the direction to the respondents to revise the pension of applicant in terms of letter No. 1(13)/2016/D (Pen/Policy) dated 21.02.2020 issued by Government of India, Ministry of Defence, Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, New Delhi, within a period of three months from the date of receipt of copy of this order and communicate to the applicant accordingly after verifying the documents.

Let a copy of this order be provided to the learned counsel for the parties.

(Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve)
Member (A)

(Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava)
Member (J)

rathore

Form No. 4
{See rule 11(1)}
ORDER SHEET
ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL, REGIONAL BENCH, LUCKNOW
Court No.1 (E. Court)

O.A. No. 64 of 2020 with M.A. No. 933 of 2019

Ex Hav (Hony Nb Sub) Chhote Lal
By Legal Practitioner for the Applicant

Applicant

Versus

Union of India & Others
By Legal Practitioner for Respondents

Respondents

Notes of the Registry	Orders of the Tribunal
	<p><u>23.02.2021</u> <u>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava, Member (J)</u> <u>Hon'ble Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve, Member (A)</u></p> <p>On the case being taken up for hearing Shri Parijaat Belaura, learned counsel for the applicant and Shri Rajiv Pandey, learned counsel for the respondents are present.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>M.A. No. 933 of 2019</u></p> <p>The Original Application has been filed with delay of .. years, .. months and .. days.</p> <p>Submission of learned counsel for the applicant is that it is a pensionary matter in which bar of limitation is not applicable. His further submission is that delay in filing Original Application is not deliberate, but on account of reasons stated in affidavit filed in support of application.</p> <p>Per contra, learned counsel for the respondents submits that cause shown by the applicant is not sufficient.</p> <p>Considering that in pensionary matters bar of limitation is not applicable and grounds stated in affidavit filed in support of delay condonation application are genuine and sufficient, delay is liable to be condoned.</p> <p>Accordingly, delay in filing of application is condoned. Application stands decided accordingly.</p> <p>Let Original Application be registered.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>O.A. No. 64 of 2020</u></p> <p>Shri Parijaat Belaura, learned counsel for the applicant submits that Original Application may be disposed off with direction to the respondents to revise the pension of applicant in terms of letter No.1(13)/2016/D (Pen/Policy)</p>

dated 21.02.2020 issued by Government of India, Ministry of Defence, Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, New Delhi, to which Shri Rajiv Pandey, learned counsel for the respondents has no objection.

With the consent of learned counsel for the parties, we hereby dispose of the Original Application finally with the direction to the respondents to revise the pension of applicant in terms of letter No. 1(13)/2016/D (Pen/Policy) dated 21.02.2020 issued by Government of India, Ministry of Defence, Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, New Delhi, within a period of three months from the date of receipt of copy of this order and communicate to the applicant accordingly after verifying the documents.

Let a copy of this order be provided to the learned counsel for the parties.

(Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve)
Member (A)

(Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava)
Member (J)

rathore

Form No. 4
{See rule 11(1)}
ORDER SHEET

ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL, REGIONAL BENCH, LUCKNOW
Court No.1 (E. Court)

O.A. No. 42 of 2020 with M.A. No. 290 of 2019

Col Sabir Ali Siddiqui

Applicant

By Legal Practitioner for the Applicant

Versus

Union of India & Others

Respondents

By Legal Practitioner for Respondents

Notes of the Registry	Orders of the Tribunal
	<p><u>23.02.2021</u> <u>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava, Member (J)</u> <u>Hon'ble Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve, Member (A)</u></p> <p>1. Heard Shri Anand Yadav, learned counsel for the applicant and Shri Ashish Kumar Singh, learned counsel for the respondents.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>M.A. No. 290 of 2019</u></p> <p>2. The Original Application has been filed with delay of 02 years and 09 days.</p> <p>3. Submission of learned counsel for the applicant is that it is a pensionary matter in which bar of limitation is not applicable. His further submission is that delay in filing Original Application is not deliberate, but on account of reasons stated in affidavit filed in support of application.</p> <p>4. Per contra, learned counsel for the respondents submits that explanation of delay offered by the applicant is not sufficient as it is not on day to day basis.</p> <p>5. Considering that in pensionary matters bar of limitation is not applicable and grounds shown for delay are genuine and sufficient, delay deserves to be condoned.</p> <p>6. Accordingly, delay is condoned.</p> <p>7. The O.A. has already been admitted and registered vide order dated 14.01.2020.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>O.A. No. 42 of 2020</u></p> <p>8. The instant Original Application has been filed on behalf of the applicant under Section 14 of the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007, whereby the applicant has sought following reliefs:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“(a) Issue/pass an order or direction of appropriate nature whereby commanding the respondents to produce the record in original and thereafter quash the impugned orders dated 03.07.2018, 28.04.2017 and 27.06.2016 whereby rejecting the claim of the applicant for disability pension annexed as Annexure no.A-1(i)(ii) (iii) respectively with the application.</p>

(b) Issue/pass an order or direction of appropriate nature whereby commanding the respondents to grant the disability pension to the applicant forthwith.

(c) Allow the application with all consequential benefits with exemplary cost.

9. Brief facts of the case giving rise to this application are that applicant was commissioned in the Indian Army on 20.12.1986 and after having served for more than 29 years, he superannuated in low medical category 'S1H1A1P2E2 (P)' on 30.08.2016. Prior to superannuation, applicant was brought before Release Medical Board (RMB) on 08.04.2016 which assessed the applicant to be suffering from (i) 'PRIMARY HYPERTENSION' @ 30% for life (ii) 'OPEN ANGLE GLAUCOMA BOTH EYE' @ 15-19% and composite assessment for both disabilities @ 30% for life. The first disability i.e. Primary Hypertension has been regarded as aggravated by military service but the second disability i.e. Open Angle Glaucoma Both Eye is regarded as neither attributable to nor aggravated by military service (NANA). Disability pension claim was rejected vide order dated 27.06.2016. Thereafter, first and second appeals were also rejected vide orders dated 28.04.2017 and 03.07.2018 respectively. It is in this perspective that this O.A. has been filed.

10. Learned counsel for the applicant submitted that the applicant was enrolled in the Army in medically and physically fit condition and there is no note in his service documents with regard to any disease prior to enrolment/commission, therefore, any disability of the applicant after joining the service should be considered as attributable to or aggravated by military service and the applicant should be entitled to disability pension. Learned counsel for the applicant further submitted that disability pension claim of the applicant has been rejected in a cavalier manner without assigning any meaningful reason. Further submission of learned counsel for the applicant is that since the aforesaid disease is due to stress and strain related to rigors of military service, these should be considered either attributable to or aggravated by military service. He pleaded for disability pension to be granted to the applicant.

11. On the other hand, learned counsel for the respondents submitted that though applicant's primary hypertension has been regarded as aggravated by military service by the RMB but the appellate authority has rejected the same on the ground of disability having originated in peace area and therefore it has no close time association with field/high altitude area. His further submission is that applicant's second disability has been regarded as neither attributable to nor aggravated by military service by RMB, therefore his disability pension claim was not allowed on the grounds of NANA and disability, being not related to military service. Therefore, O.A. deserves to be dismissed.

12. Heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the material placed on record. We have also gone through the RMB and the rejection order of disability pension claim. The question before us is simple and straight i.e. – is the disability of applicant attributable to or aggravated by military service?

13. The law on attributability of a disability has already been well settled by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of *Dharamvir Singh Vs. Union of India and Ors*, (2013) 7 SCC 213. In this case the Apex Court took note of the provisions of the Pensions Regulations, Entitlement Rules and the General Rules of Guidance to Medical Officers to sum up the legal position emerging from the same in the following words:-

"29.1. Disability pension to be granted to an individual who is invalided from service on account of a disability which is attributable to or aggravated by military service in non-battle casualty and is assessed at 20% or over. The question whether a disability is attributable to or aggravated by military service to be determined under the Entitlement Rules for Casualty Pensionary Awards, 1982 of Appendix II (Regulation 173).

29.2. A member is to be presumed in sound physical and mental condition upon entering service if there is no note or record at the time of entrance. In the event of his subsequently being discharged from service on medical grounds any deterioration in his health is to be presumed due to service [Rule 5 read with Rule 14(b)].

29.3. The onus of proof is not on the claimant (employee), the corollary is that onus of proof that the condition for non-entitlement is with the employer. A claimant has a right to derive benefit of any reasonable doubt and is entitled for pensionary benefit more liberally (Rule 9).

29.4. If a disease is accepted to have been as having arisen in service, it must also be established that the conditions of military service determined or contributed to the onset of the disease and that the conditions were due to the circumstances of duty in military service [Rule 14(c)]. [pic]

29.5. If no note of any disability or disease was made at the time of individual's acceptance for military service, a disease which has led to an individual's discharge or death will be deemed to have arisen in service [Rule 14(b)].

29.6. If medical opinion holds that the disease could not have been detected on medical examination prior to the acceptance for service and that disease will not be deemed to have arisen during service, the Medical Board is required to state the reasons [Rule 14(b)]; and 29.7. It is mandatory for the Medical Board to follow the guidelines laid down in Chapter II of the Guide to Medical Officers (Military Pensions), 2002 - "Entitlement: General Principles", including Paras 7, 8 and 9 as referred to above (para 27)."

14. In view of the settled position of law on attributability/aggravation, we find that the RMB has denied attributability/aggravation to the applicant only by endorsing that the disability of applicant arose in peace area and the said

disability having no close time association with stress/strain of service in Fd/HAA/CI Ops. We feel that such a discrimination between peace posting and a posting to Field/High Altitude Area/Counter Insurgency Operations amounts to saying that there is no stress and strain of military service in peace area, which is not the absolute truth. It is trite law that any disability not recorded at the time of recruitment must be presumed to have been caused subsequently, and, unless proved to the contrary to be a consequences of military service. The benefit of doubt, therefore, shall be rightly extended in favour of the applicant. In the instant case, since the applicant was found to be suffering from disability when he had put in more than 22 & 28 years of service respectively, it should be deemed to be aggravated by military service. We are, therefore, of the considered opinion that the benefit of doubt should be given to the applicant as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment of *Dharamvir Singh* (supra) and the disability of the applicant should be considered as aggravated by military service.

15. In view of the above the applicant is held entitled to 30% disability element for life which shall stand rounded off to 50% disability element for life with effect from the date of his discharge in terms of *Union of India vs. Ram Avtar & Others*, (Civil Appeal No. 418 of 2012 decided on 10 December, 2014.

16. As a result of foregoing discussion, the O.A. is **allowed**. The impugned orders dated 27.06.2016, 28.04.2017 and 03.07.2018 are set aside. The applicant shall be granted disability element with effect from his date of superannuation *i.e.* 30.08.2016. The respondents are directed to pay 50% disability element alongwith arrears within four months from today.

17. Default will invite interest @ 8% p.a.

18. No order as to costs.

19. Pending applications, if any, are disposed off.

(Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve)
Member (A)

(Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava)
Member (J)

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