

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

O.A. No. 222 of 2022

Ex. Hav. Haricharan Singh Yadav
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>04.08.2022</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>Counter Affidavit filed by the respondents is taken on record.</p> <p>Heard Shri R. Chandra, Ld. Counsel for the applicant and Shri D.K. Pandey, Ld. Counsel for the respondents.</p> <p>This Original Application has been filed for the grant of disability element of disability pension.</p> <p>Briefly stated, applicant was enrolled in the Corps of Signals of Indian Army on 13.06.1968 and was invalided out from service on 19.03.1987 in Low Medical Category under Rule 13(3) Item III (iii) of the Army Rules, 1954. At the time of invaliding from service, the Invaliding Medical Board (IMB) held at Military Hospita, Danapur on 24.02.1987 assessed his disability 'SCHIZOPHRENIA EEE (PSY)' @50% for two years and opined the disability to be neither attributable to nor aggravated (NANA) by service. The applicant's claim for grant of disability pension was rejected vide letter dated 15.03.1988 which was communicated to the applicant vide letter dated 26.04.1988. The applicant preferred First Appeal dated 10.08.1988 which was allowed and applicant was granted disability element of disability pension for two years from 20.03.1987 to 23.02.1989 vide PPO dated 19.01.1989. Thereafter, applicant brought before the Re-Survey Medical Board held from time to time and was granted disability element of disability pension upto 22.01.2011. Thereafter, applicant's medical documents were forwarded to Base Hospital, Delhi Cantt for conduct of final Re-Survey Medical Board vide letter dated 19.07.2003 but since the applicant did not report to despite repeated reminders his disability element of disability pension was stopped with effect from 22.01.2011. The applicant preferred representation dated 16.08.2019 for payment of disability element which was replied vide letter dated 28.09.2019. It is in this perspective that the applicant has preferred the present Original Application.</p>

During the course of hearing Ld. Counsel for the applicant submits that Original Application may be disposed of with direction to the respondents to hold Re-Survey Medical Board (RSMB) to assess the disability of the applicant for deciding entitlement of the disability element of disability pension to which the learned counsel for the Respondents has no objection.

Accordingly, we dispose of the Original Application finally with the direction to the respondents to conduct Re-Survey Medical Board (RSMB) of the applicant to assess his disability for deciding entitlement of disability element of disability pension. Respondents are further directed to give effect to the order within four months from the date of receipt of a certified copy of this order.

Let 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)

AKD/-

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

R.A. No. 58 of 2022 with M.A. No. 723 of 2022 Inre : O.A. No. 591 of 2018

Ex. Gnr. Ratan Maity
By Legal Practitioner for the Applicant

Applicant

Versus

The Commanding Officer 152 A.D. Regt. & Others
By Legal Practitioner for Respondents

Respondents

Notes of the Registry	Orders of the Tribunal
	<p><u>04.08.2022</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 style="text-align: center;">Memo of Appearance filed by Shri Ashish Kumar Singh, Advocate on behalf of the respondents is taken on record.</p> <p><u>M.A. No. 723 of 2022</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Heard Shri Rohit Kumar, Ld. Counsel for the applicant and Shri Ashish Kumar Singh, Ld. Counsel for the respondents.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For the reasons stated in affidavit filed in support of delay condonation application, delay of 01 year, 04 months and 18 days in filing of Review Application is condoned. Delay condonation application stands decided accordingly.</p> <p><u>R.A. No. 58 of 2022</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Heard Shri Rohit Kumar, Ld. Counsel for the applicant and Shri Ashish Kumar Singh, Ld. Counsel for the respondents.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Review Applicant has filed this application under Rule 18 of the Armed Forces Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 2008 by which applicant has prayed for review the judgement and order dated 18.02.2019 of this Tribunal in Original Application No. 591 of 2018 and to grant disability pension to the applicant with effect from the date of filing of the First Wit Petition in the year 2005. The operative portion of the order reads as under:-</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“In view of the above, the O.A. deserves to be allowed, hence, allowed. Though the applicant is entitled to disability pension w.e.f. the date of his discharge but the applicant has approached this Tribunal with a long delay, therefore the arrears of disability pension and benefit of rounding of f to 50% shall be restricted to three years prior to the date of filing of this Original Application. The date of filing of this Original Application is 17.10.2013. The respondents are directed to give effect to this order within a period of four months from the date of receipt of a certified copy of this order. Default will invite interest @9% per annum till actual payment.”</i></p>

The order of which review has been sought was passed by the Bench comprising of (Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.V.S. Rathore, Member (J) (since retired) and Hon'ble Air Marshal B.B.P. Sinha, Member (A) (since retired).

It is a settled proposition of law that the scope of the review is limited and until it is shown that there is error apparent on the face of record in the judgment and order sought to be reviewed, the same cannot be reviewed.

For ready reference, Order 47, Rule 1 sub-rule (1) of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 is reproduced below :-

"1. Application for review of judgment.- (1) any person considering himself aggrieved-

(a) by a decree or order from which an appeal is allowed, but from which no appeal has been preferred,

(b) by a decree or order from which no appeal is allowed, or

(c) by a decision on a reference from a Court of Small Causes, and who, from the discovery of new and important matter or evidence which, after the exercise of due diligence, was not within his knowledge or could not be produced by him at the time when the decree was passed or order made, or on account of some mistake or error apparent on the face of the record, or for any other sufficient reason, desires to obtain a review of the decree passed or order made against him, may apply for a review of judgment to the Court which passed the decree or made the order."

In view of the principles of law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in various decisions, it is settled that the scope of review jurisdiction is very limited and re-hearing is not permissible. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in Para 9 of its judgment in the case of ***Parsion Devi and others vs. Sumitri Devi and others***, reported in (1997) 8 Supreme Court Cases 715, has observed as under :-

"9. Under Order 47, Rule 1 CPC a judgment may be open to review inter alia if there is a mistake or an error apparent on the face of the record. An error which is not self-evident and has to be detected by a process of reasoning, can hardly be said to be an error apparent on the face of the record justifying the court to exercise its power of review under Order 47, Rule 1 CPC. In exercise of the jurisdiction under Order 47, Rule 1 CPC it is not permissible for an erroneous decision to be "reheard and corrected". There is a clear distinction between an erroneous decision and an error apparent on the face of the record. While the first can be corrected by the higher forum, the latter only can be corrected by exercise of the review jurisdiction. A review petition has a limited purpose and cannot be allowed to be "an appeal in disguise."

We have gone through the judgment and order sought to be reviewed and no illegality or irregularity or error apparent on the face of record being found therein, we are of the view that there is no force in the grounds taken in the review application so that order may be reviewed.

In the result, Review Application is **rejected**.

(Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve)
Member (A)

(Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava)
Member (J)

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

O.A. (A) No. 205 of 2021

Sep Pawan Chandra Bhatt through mother Smt. Kamta Devi 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>04.08.2022</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 style="text-align: center;">Heard arguments of Shri Shailendra Kumar Singh, Ld. Counsel for the applicant and Shri Amit Jaiswal, Ld. Counsel for the respondents. List on 12.10.2022 for further hearing as part heard case.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve) (Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava) Member (A) Member (J)</p> <p>SB</p>

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

O.A. No. 437 of 2022 with M.A. No. 492 of 2022

Ex Nk Shyam Bahadur 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>04.08.2022</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 style="text-align: center;">Heard Shri Anurag Singh, Ld. Counsel for the applicant and Mrs Deepti Prasad Bajpai, Ld. Counsel for the respondents.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Objection on application for condonation of delay is taken on record.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The applicant has filed this application under Section 14 of the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007 to quash dismissal order dated 14.02.1998 and to reinstate him in service with all consequential benefits.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">There is delay of about 21 years, 09 months and 23 days in filing Original Application.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Submission of learned counsel for the applicant is that applicant was enrolled in Indian Army on 16.01.1980 and he was dismissed from service on 14.02.1998 being absent without leave and his rank was reduced. Applicant submitted representation dated 28.03.2020 and 25.06.2020 to set aside dismissal order and reinstate him in service but dismissal order was not set aside.</p>

He further submitted that after Summary Court Martial applicant returned to home and became ill thereby confined to bed. Applicant wrote several letters for providing copy of charge sheet, dismissal certificate, copy of court martial proceedings and all other relevant documents but nothing was provided to him. In the year 2020, the whole country was suffering from Covid-19 for two years. Delay and latches have no meaning in such types of cases. The applicant cannot be deprived from reinstatement in service on the ground of delay and latches.

He further submitted that delay in filing Original Application is not deliberate and intentional. His submission is that applicant was in financial hardship, hence he could not approach the Tribunal in time. Thus, his submission is that delay is not deliberate, but for the reasons stated above. He prayed that delay in filing Original Application be condoned and applicant be reinstated in service.

Learned counsel for the respondents has vehemently opposed the prayer saying there being an inordinate delay of more than 23 years and the same being not properly and satisfactorily explained on day to day basis with sufficient cause, delay is not liable to be condoned. Applicant has filed instant Original Application for reinstatement in service after about 23 years of his dismissal. Hon'ble Courts in a catena of judgments have time and again held that the courts are not for the people who are not vigilant and sleep over their rights and courts should be strict while dealing with the cases of litigants who approach the Courts merely for chance or fun. He further submitted that such a long delay is not

condonable without proper reason.

Having heard the submissions of learned counsel of both sides and perused the documents available on record.

Now the point for determination is as to whether the applicant has been able to show any sufficient cause for condonation of such inordinate delay?

Armed Forces Tribunals were established in the year 2007, even then the applicant did not approach the Tribunal. He moved the representation for the first time for reinstatement in service in the year 2020, after about 23 years from the date of dismissal.

Learned counsel for the applicant has tried to justify the aforesaid delay on compelling reason of paucity of funds. He has, however, failed to explain the delay of 24 years in moving the application. The cause of action in the instant case started from the date of dismissal from service. He moved a belated application for redressal of his grievance.

Section 22 of the Armed Forces Tribunal Act 2007 deals with the limitation, which reads as under:-

22 Limitation. —

(1) The Tribunal shall not admit an application—

(a) in a case where a final order such as is mentioned in clause (a) of sub-section (2) of section 21 has been made unless the application is made within six months from the date on which such final order has been made;

(b) in a case where a petition or a representation such as is mentioned in clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 21 has been made and the period of six months has expired thereafter without such final order having been made;

(c) in a case where the grievance in respect of which an application is made had arisen by reason of any order made at any time during the period of three years immediately preceding the date on which jurisdiction, powers and authority of the Tribunal became exercisable

under this Act, in respect of the matter to which such order relates and no proceedings for the redressal of such grievance had been commenced before the said date before the High Court.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the Tribunal may admit an application after the period of six months referred to in clause (a) or clause (b) of sub-section (1), as the case may be, or prior to the period of three years specified in clause (c), if the Tribunal is satisfied that the applicant had sufficient cause for not making the application within such period.

We would like to deal with the issue of limitation raised in the instant case in the light of proposition of law as laid down by the Hon'ble Apex Court in catena of decisions. In the case of *D. Gopinathan Pillai versus State of Kerala and another*, reported in (2007) 2 SCC 322, the Hon'ble Apex Court has observed as under:

"5. We are unable to countenance the finding rendered by the Sub-Judge and also the view taken by the High Court. There is no dispute in regard to the delay of 3320 days in filing the petition for setting aside the award. When a mandatory provision is not complied with and when the delay is not properly, satisfactorily and convincingly explained, the court cannot condone the delay, only on the sympathetic ground. The orders passed by the learned Sub-Judge and also by the High Court are far from satisfactory. No reason whatsoever has been given to condone the inordinate delay of 3320 days. It is well-considered principle of law that the delay cannot be condoned without assigning any reasonable, satisfactory, sufficient and proper reason. Both the courts have miserably failed to comply and follow the principle laid down by this Court in a catena of cases. We, therefore, have no other option except to set aside the order passed by the Sub-Judge and as affirmed by the High Court. We accordingly set aside both the orders and allow this appeal."

There is absolutely no explanation on record as to why the applicant did not approach the competent Army authorities for redressal of his grievance within the prescribed period of limitation. In view of the settled proposition of law, as laid down by the Hon'ble Apex Court in *Mewa Ram (Deceased by L.Rs) & Ors v. State of Haryana, AIR 1987 SC 45, State of Nagaland v. Lipok AO & Ors,*

AIR 2005 SC 2191 and D. Gopinathan Pillai v. State of Kerala & Anr, AIR 2007 SC 2624, the applicant was under obligation to give cogent and valid reasons for the delay. Time and again it has been held by the Hon'ble Apex Court that if the law provides for a limitation, it is to be enforced even at the risk of hardship to a particular party, as the Judge cannot, on applicable grounds, enlarge the time allowed by law, postpone its operation or introduce exceptions not recognised by law. The law of limitation has to be applied with all its rigour. The concept of liberal approach has to encapsulate the conception of reasonableness and it cannot be allowed a totally unfettered free play. We are, therefore, not inclined to accept such a plea as raised by the applicant, which is wholly unjustified and cannot furnish any ground for ignoring delay and laches. ***(Vide General Fire and Life Assurance Corporation Ltd v. Janmahomed Abdul Rahim, AIR 1941 PC 6, P.K. Ramachandran v. State of Kerala & Anr, AIR 1998 SC 2276, Esha Bhattacharjee v. Raghunathpur Nafar Academy & Ors, (2013) 12 SCC 649, Basawaraj v. Land Acquisition Officer, (2013) 14 SCC 81, State of Karnataka & Ors v. S.M. Kotrayyqa & Ors (1996) 6 SCC 267, Jagdish Lal & Ors v. State of Haryana and Ors, AIR 1997 SC 2366 and M/s Rup Diamonds & Ors v. Union of India and Ors, AIR 1989 SC 674.***

Thus, a plain reading of the aforesaid judgments show that the court before condoning the delay, must be satisfied that the applicant has sufficient cause for not making the application within such period. Admittedly, in this case applicant was dismissed from

service in the year 1998 and thereafter, he remained silent and for the first time in the year 2020 applicant approached the respondents for reinstatement in service. This delay of 23 years in filing instant Original Application could not be explained by the applicant. Such a long period cannot be treated to be a reasonable period. If the period of limitation is taken from the date of filing of application, then it would simply make Section 22 of the AFT Act, 2007 meaningless because in that circumstances, any administrative Act of the Armed Forces shall not attain finality. The purpose of provision of limitation is to give finality to the orders passed by the authority. Until and unless the applicant satisfies the Tribunal that he was not in a position to come before the Tribunal within time due to certain unavoidable circumstances, such huge delay cannot be condoned. In the instant case, the applicant has utterly failed to satisfy us on this point.

We have noticed that applicant did not challenged his case for reinstatement in service before the competent authority or before the court of law by way of appeal/writ for a considerable long period of more than 23 years. If the applicant would have represented his case for reinstatement in service, court of law would have resorted his grievance. There being an inordinate delay of more than 23 years in approaching the Tribunal and the same being not properly explained, we do not find any sufficient reason to condone the same. Case law relied upon by the applicant is based on different fact and circumstances.

After carefully examining the entire record and considering the facts and circumstances of the case, we find that explanation offered by the applicant for delay in filing Original Application is not sufficient. It is settled in law that if time limit is given for filing of any application and the same is not filed within that time limit, delay should be explained on day to day basis which applicant has utterly failed in the present case.

In view of the discussions held above, the application for condonation of delay has no merit. It deserves to be dismissed and is hereby **dismissed**.

Consequently the O.A. is also **dismissed** being time barred.

(Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve) (Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava)
Member (A) Member (J)

UKT/-