

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

O.A. No. 328 of 2022 with M.A. No. 383 of 2022

Ex. Hav. Chaman Prakash Singh Negi
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>05.05.2022</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>Memo of Appearance filed by Shri Arvind Kumar Pandey, Advocate on behalf of the respondents is taken on record.</p> <p>Heard Dr. Amit Asthana, Ld. Counsel for the applicant and Shri Arvind Kumar Pandey, Ld. Counsel for the respondents.</p> <p>The Original Application has been filed for grant of disability pension with delay of 03 months and 17 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 for the reasons stated in affidavit filed in support of application.</p> <p>Per contra, learned counsel for the respondents submits that explanation of delay offered by the applicant is not sufficient as he has failed to offer day to day explanation of delay.</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 application is condoned. Delay condonation application stands decided accordingly.</p> <p><u>O.A. No. 328 of 2022</u></p> <p>It is a fit case for adjudication.</p> <p>Admit.</p> <p>Ld. Counsel for the respondents seeks and is allowed four weeks time to file Counter Affidavit. Rejoinder Affidavit, if any, may be filed within two weeks thereafter.</p> <p>List the matter before Registrar on 05.07.2022 for exchange of pleadings.</p> <p>List the matter before Tribunal on 28.07.2022.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve) (Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava) Member (A) Member (J)</p> <p>AKD/SB/-</p> |

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

Ex. A. No. 95 of 2018 Inre : O.A. NO. 143 of 2015

Shaikh Ibrahim
By Legal Practitioner for the Applicant

Applicant

Versus

Chief of the Army Staff & Others
By Legal Practitioner for Respondents

Respondents

| Notes of the Registry | Orders of the Tribunal |
|------------------------------|---|
| | <p><u>05.05.2022</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 Rohit Kumar, Ld. Counsel for the applicant and Shri Amit Jaiswal, Ld. Counsel for the respondents.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">An affidavit of compliance dated 29.03.2002 has been filed by the respondents, which is taken on record.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ld. Counsel for the respondents submits that in compliance of the order Rs.3,73,488/- (Rs.2,58,733/- towards 50% of Pay and Allowances and Rs.1,14,755/- towards Leave Encashment) have been paid to the applicant. He further submits that he has received a letter dated 30.04.2022 of the Army Medical Corps (AMC) Records.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Let that letter be brought on record by way of affidavit after giving its copy to the Ld. Counsel for the applicant, who may file objection, if any, within a week.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">List on 27.05.2022.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve) Member (A)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava) Member (J)</p> <p>AKD/SB/-</p> |

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

O.A. No. 805 of 2021

Smt. Hema Rani D/o Late No. 13840645-M Ex. Sepoy Jagdish Lal 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>05.05.2022</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>1. Heard Shri V.P. Pandey and Shri Rajesh Kumar Pundir, Ld. Counsel for the applicant and Shri Arvind Kumar Pandey, Ld. Counsel for the respondents.</p> <p>2. 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) To set-aside/quash the impugned order dated 11 October 2018, contained in Annexure No. A-1 vide which the claim of rounding off benefits have been arbitrarily and illegally rejected.(b) To pass an order/direction to respondents to round off of disability element from 30% to 50% w.e.f. 01.01.1996 to 04.11.2018.(c) To pass an order/direction to the respondents to pay arrears of amount accrued from 01.01.1996 till 04.11.2018 along with interest.(d) Any other relief as considered proper by this Hon'ble Tribunal be awarded in favour of the applicant.(e) Cost of the O.A. be awarded to the applicant. <p>3. Briefly stated facts of the case are that the father of the applicant was enrolled in Indian Army on 02.03.1964 and was discharged from service on 30.11.1979 (AN) in low medical category on fulfilling the terms of engagement under Rule 13(3) Item III (I) of the Army Rules, 1954. The Release Medical Board identified his disability "BRONCHIAL ASTHMA" and assessed it @30% for two years, aggravated by military service. Accordingly, P.P.O. was issued by the Principal Controller of Defence Account (Pension), Allahabad. Thereafter, on the basis of Re-Assessment Medical Board (RSMB) the applicant's father was granted disability pension @135/- per month for life vide PPO No. D/RA/6069/93. The applicant father served legal notice dated 23.09.2017 for grant of rounding off benefit @50% which was rejected vide</p> |

letter dated 16.10.2017. Thereafter, applicant's father again preferred a petition dated 28.02.2018 which too was rejected vide letter dated 11.10.2018. the applicant's father expired on 04.11.2018. The applicant preferred petition dated 21.07.2020 which too was rejected vide letter dated 21.08.2020. The applicant's father was in receipt of 30% disability pension till his death i.e. 04.11.2018 and now the applicant has moved this Original Application for grant of benefit of rounding off of disability pension from 30% to 50% till his father's death.

4. Ld. Counsel for the applicant argued that since the applicant's father was already in receipt of 30% disability element for life, therefore, in view of the Hon'ble Apex Court judgment in the case of **Union of India and Ors vs Ram Avtar & ors** (Civil appeal No. 418 of 2012 decided on 10th December 2014), the applicant is also entitled to benefit of rounding off of disability element @50% till his death i.e. 04.11.2018.

5. On the other hand, though Ld. Counsel for the respondents conceded grant of 30% disability element to the applicant's father but contended that the applicant's father was not entitled to the benefit of rounding off of disability element on the ground that the applicant's father's services were not cut short as he was not invalidated out on account of his disability. In the instant case the applicant's father was discharged from service on completion of his terms of engagement, therefore, the Ld. Counsel claimed that he is not eligible for the benefit of rounding off.

6. The law on the point of rounding off of disability pension is no more RES INTEGRA in view of the Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment in the case of **Union of India and Ors vs Ram Avtar & ors** (Civil appeal No 418 of 2012 decided on 10th December 2014) wherein the Hon'ble Apex Court has nodded in disapproval of the policy of the Government of India in granting the benefit of rounding off of disability pension only to the personnel who have been invalidated out of service and denying the same to the personnel who have retired on attaining the age of superannuation or on completion of their tenure of engagement. The relevant portion of the decision is excerpted below:-

"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.*

8. *This Court grants six weeks' time from today to the appellant(s) to comply with the orders and directions passed by us."*

7. In the instant case, there is no dispute that applicant's father was in receipt of 30% disability element till his life time as this fact has been accepted by the respondents. In view of the settled law on this matter, we are of the considered opinion that the applicant's father was entitled to the benefit of rounding off to 50% for life i.e. upto 04.11.2018 with effect from **01.01.1996**.

8. In view of the above, the Original Application No. 805 of 2021 is allowed. The applicant's father is held entitled to the benefit of rounding off of disability element from 30% for life to 50% till his life i.e. upto 04.11.2018 with effect from 01.01.1996. The respondents are directed to grant benefit of rounding off of disability element to the applicant's father @50% from 01.01.1996 to till his death i.e. 04.11.2018 and pay the life time arrears due to the deceased soldier to the applicant. The respondents are directed to give effect to this order within a period of four months from the date applicant submits mandatory documents alongwith certified copy of this order. Defaults will invite interest @ 9% per annum from the due date till actual payment.

9. No order as to costs.

(Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve)
Member (A)

(Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava)
Member (J)

AKD/SB/-

