

Court No. 1

ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL, REGIONAL BENCH, LUCKNOW

O.A. No. 42 of 2018

Wednesday, the 10th day of January, 2018

Hon'ble Mr. Justice D.P. Singh, Member (J)
Hon'ble Air Marshal BBP Sinha, Member (A)

Ram Das Singh, No. 6286675L, Hony Nb Sub, son of Sri Bachan Singh, resident of village Sarujhan, P.O./P.S./Teh. Zamania, District Ghazipur (UP)

.... Applicant

Learned Counsel for the Applicant: **Shri Vijay Kumar Pandey,**
Advocate

Verses

1. Union of India through Secretary Ministry of Defence, South Block, R.K.Puram, New Delhi.
2. OIC, Signals Records, Jabalpur (M.P.)
3. PCDA (P), Draupadi Ghat, Allahabad (U.P.).

... Respondents

Learned counsel for the Respondents: **Shri Amit Jaiswal,**
Advocate
Assisted by Maj Salen Xaxa, OIC Legal Cell.

ORDER (Oral)

1. The instant Original Application has been filed by the applicant under Section 14 of the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007 for grant of pension of Hony Naib Subedar.

2. As per office report, there is a delay of 03 years, 01 months and 06 days in filing the present OA. The delay has been satisfactorily explained. Accordingly, the delay in filing the OA is condoned. The OA is **admitted** for hearing.

3. We have heard learned counsel for the parties and perused the record.

4. Undisputed factual matrix of the case is that the applicant was enrolled in the Corps of Signals on 25.08.1962 and was discharged on 01.09.1984 after completing 22 years of service in the rank of Havildar. After discharge, he was granted honorary rank of Naib Subedar. Grievance of the applicant is that he should be given pension as applicable to the rank of Hony Naib Subedars retired on or after 01.01.2006 as per recommendations of 6th Central Pay Commission. This claim having been denied by the respondents, the present Original Application has been filed.

5. We find that the controversy involved in the Present O.A. is squarely covered by the decision of Armed Forces Tribunal, Regional Bench, Chandimandir in **O.A. No. 42 of 2010, Virender Singh & Ors vs. Union of India & Ors** dated 08.02.2010 which attained finality with dismissal of the **SLP(C) CC No. 18582 of 2010**, titled **UOI & Ors vs. Virender Singh & Ors** on **13.12.2010** by Hon'ble The Apex Court. This fact could not be disputed by the learned counsel for the respondents. In that case it has been held that pre 01.01.2006 retirees will also be entitled to get pension at the enhanced rate w.e.f. 01.01.2006, as is being paid to post 01.01.2006 retirees.

6. We further take note of the fact that the matter has been finally settled by Hon'ble The Apex court in **Union of India & Ors vs. Subbash Chander Soni, Civil Appeal No. 4677 of 2014**, decided on **20.05.2015** and a clarification has been given that no interest

shall be payable in such cases. For the sake of convenience, the said judgment is reproduced below:-

*“In the Supreme Court of India
Civil Appellate jurisdiction*

Civil appeal No. 4677 of 2014

Union of India & Ors.

Appellant(s)

Versus

Subhash Chander Soni

Respondent(s)

ORDER

*From the reading of the impugned judgment of the Armed Forces Tribunal, it gets revealed that the Tribunal has relied upon its earlier judgment dated 08.02.2010 rendered in O.A. No. 42 of 2010 titled ‘Virender Singh & Ors v. U.O.I.’, where identical relief was granted to the petitioners therein who were similarly situated. Further, we note that against the said judgment of the Tribunal, SLP (C) CC No. 18582 of 2010 was preferred which was dismissed by this Court on 13.12.2010. We further find that by the impugned judgment, the Tribunal had decided 35 O.A.s and the Union of India has preferred the instant appeal only in one of those 35 cases. **For all these reasons, we are not inclined to entertain this appeal, which is dismissed accordingly. We, however, clarify that no interest shall be payable.***

Two months, time is granted to the appellants to comply with the impugned judgment passed by the High Court.

*Sd/-[Hon'ble Mr. Justice A.K. Sikri]
Sd/-[Hon'ble Mr. Justice Uday Umesh Lalit]
Date: 06.03.2015
May 20, 2015”*

7. Admittedly, the applicant has been granted honorary rank of Naib Subedar after retirement, hence he is entitled for pension of the rank of Naib Subedar.

8. Accordingly, we dispose of the present petition in terms of the above judgments with a direction to the respondents to release the enhanced service pension to the applicant in the rank of Naib Subedar w.e.f. 01.01.2006 within a period of four months from the

date of receipt of a certified copy of this order. However, this shall be subject to further verification by the respondents of the factual pleadings on record with respect to conferment of status of Hon Nb Subedar on the applicant. It is further made clear that no interest shall be admissible and payable to the applicant in this regard. In case this order is not complied with within the stipulated period, the amount of arrears shall carry interest @ 9% per annum from the due date, till actual payment thereof.

9. No order as to costs.

(Air Marshal BBP Sinha)
Singh)
Member (A)

(Justice D.P.
Member (J)

Dated: January 10, 2018
LN/-