

Court No. 2**ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL, REGIONAL BENCH, LUCKNOW****ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 1110 of 2023**

Monday, this the 9th day of December, 2024

**“Hon’ble Mr. Justice Anil Kumar, Member (J)
Hon’ble Lt Gen Anil Puri, Member (A)”**

692503-T Warrant Officer (Retd) Dayanand Prasad, House No 204S, Teachers Colony Jharnatola, PO-Kunraghat, Gorakhpur, UP-273008.

..... Applicant

Ld. Counsel for the Applicant : **Shri Markandey Tiwari**, Advocate

Versus

1. The Union of India, through Secretary, Ministry of Defence, South Block, DHQ, PO-New Delhi-110011.
2. Chief of the Air Staff, Air HQs, Vayu Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110106.
3. Principal Director, Directorate of Air Veterans, Air HQs (SP), Subroto Park, New Delhi-110010.
4. The Joint Controller of Defence Accounts (Air Force), 2nd Floor, AFCAO Building, Subroto Park, New Delhi-110010.

.....Respondents

Ld. Counsel for the Respondents : **Shri Pushpendra Mishra**,
Central Govt. Counsel

ORDER (Oral)

1. The instant Original Application has been filed under Section 14 of the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007 for the following reliefs :-

(a) Quash the impugned PPO (Annexure A-1), the pension payment order (PPO) No 601202101385 vide which notional increment has been denied to the applicant.

(b) Pass an order re-calculating pension and other terminal benefits after taking into account the benefit of notional increment as on 30 Jun 2021.

(c) Pass an order granting interest @ 18% on the arrears of pension and other terminal benefits to which the applicant is held entitled in terms of the re-calculation after implementing the order at (b) above.

(d) Pass an order awarding cost of the present application for compelling the filing of the instant application.

(e) Pass any other or such further order(s) or direction(s) in favour of the applicant and against the respondents which this Hon'ble Tribunal feels necessary in the attendant circumstances of the case, to meet the ends of justice.

2. Briefly stated, the applicant was enrolled in the Indian Air Force (IAF) on 02.01.1984 and was discharged on 30.06.2021 (AN). The respondents have issued the PPO No 601202101385 to the applicant wherein same pay has been taken into account as he was receiving since 2020 after grant of last increment on 01.07.2020. Applicant's contention is that his due increment as on 01.07.2021 has not been granted, hence this O.A. has been filed.

3. Learned Counsel for the applicant pleaded that after the Six Central Pay Commission, the Central Government fixed 1st July, as the date of increment for all Government Employees, thereafter, the applicant is entitled for grant of last increment due on 01.07.2021. He has relied upon the law laid down by the Hon'ble Madras High Court in the case of ***P. Ayamperumal Versus the Registrar, Central Administrative Tribunal, Madras Bench and Others*** (W.P. No. 15732 of 2017, decided on 15.09.2017), the Hon'ble Apex Court order passed in the case of ***State of Karnataka & Ors vs C Lalitha***, (2006) 2 SCC 747, Hon'ble CAT, Allahabad order dated 26.02.2021 passed in O.A. No.

330/00146/2020, **Shri Pravesh Chandra Gupta & Ors vs Union of India & Ors**, the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad, Lucknow Bench order passed in WP (C) No 484 of 2010, **Union of India & Ors vs Sri Sakha Ram Tripathi & Ors**, Hon'ble Delhi High Court order dated 13.01.2020 passed in **Arun Chhibber vs Union of India & Ors**, Hon'ble CAT Principal Bench order dated 15.07.2021 passed in O.A. No. 776 of 2019, **Society for Teachers' Cause vs Union of India & Ors** and this Tribunal order dated 12.08.2021 passed in O.A. No. 366 of 2020, **HFL Sarvesh Kumar vs Union of India & Ors**.

4. On the other hand, Ld. Counsel for the respondents contended that the applicant had served for complete one year from the date of his last annual increment, but he had not been granted annual increment as on the date of his discharge i.e. 30.06.2021 since the date of annual increment fell on the following day i.e. 01.07.2021. Since the applicant was not on the effective strength of Indian Air Force on 01.07.2021, therefore, he has not been granted annual increment on 01.07.2021 as per policy in vogue. Although, he conceded that against the Judgment dated 15.09.2017 passed by the Hon'ble Madras High Court in Writ Petition No.15753 of 2017 an Special Leave Petition (Civil) Diary No. 22282 of 2018 was filed by the Union of India before the Hon'ble Supreme Court which was dismissed vide order dated 23.07.2018. He also submitted that the notional increment could

not be granted to the retirees of 30 June in terms of DoPT, Government of India letter No. 19/2/2018-Estt (Pay-1) dated 03.02.2021.

5. We have heard Ld. Counsel for the applicant as also Ld. Counsel for the respondents and gone through the records and we find that the only question which needs to be answered is that whether the applicant is entitled for one notional increment?

6. The law on notional increment has already been settled by the Hon'ble Madra High Court in the case of ***P. Ayamperumal Versus the Registrar, Central Administrative Tribunal, Madras Bench and Others*** (Supra). Against the said Judgment the Union of India had preferred Special Leave Petition (Civil) Diary No.22282 of 2018 which was dismissed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 23.07.2018. The relevant portion of the Judgment passed by the Hon'ble Madras Court is excerpted below:-

"5. The petitioner retired as Additional Director General, Chennai on 30.06.2013 on attaining the age of superannuation. After the Sixth Pay Commission, the Central Government fixed 1st July as the date of increment for all employees by amending Rule 10 of the Central Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 2008. In view of the said amendment, the petitioner was denied the last increment, though he completed a full one year in service, ie., from 01.07.2012 to 30.06.2013. Hence, the petitioner filed the original application in O.A.No.310/00917/2015 before the Central Administrative Tribunal, Madras Bench, and the same was rejected on the ground that an incumbent is only entitled to increment on 1st July if he continued in service on that day.

6. In the case on hand, the petitioner got retired on 30.06.2013. As per the Central Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 2008, the increment has to be given only on 01.07.2013, but he had been superannuated on 30.06.2013 itself. The judgment referred to by the petitioner in State of Tamil Nadu,

rep.by its Secretary to Government, Finance Department and others v. M.Balasubramaniam, reported in CDJ 2012 MHC 6525, was passed under similar circumstances on 20.09.2012, wherein this Court confirmed the order passed in W.P.No.8440 of 2011 allowing the writ petition filed by the employee, by observing that the employee had completed one full year of service from 01.04.2002 to 31.03.2003, which entitled him to the benefit of increment which accrued to him during that period.

7. *The petitioner herein had completed one full year service as on 30.06.2013, but the increment fell due on 01.07.2013, on which date he was not in service. In view of the above judgment of this Court, naturally he has to be treated as having completed one full year of service, though the date of increment falls on the next day of his retirement. Applying the said judgment to the present case, the writ petition is allowed and the impugned order passed by the first respondent-Tribunal dated 21.03.2017 is quashed. The petitioner shall be given one notional increment for the period from 01.07.2012 to 30.06.2013, as he has completed one full year of service, though his increment fell on 01.07.2013, for the purpose of pensionary benefits and not for any other purpose. No costs."*

7. The Civil Appeal No. 4339 of 2023, Arising out of Diary No. 16764 of 2023, **Union of India & Others vs. Anand Kumar Singh** has been dismissed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 10.07.2023 in which the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that an employee who has served for a complete year in an organisation is entitled to annual increment on the last day of service for rendering one full year service.

8. In view of law laid down by the Hon'ble Madras High Court and other courts, upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, we are of the view that applicant has to be treated as having completed one full year of service as on 30.06.2021, though the date of increment fell on the next day of his retirement, i.e. on 01.07.2021 on which date he was not in service, is entitled to annual service increment.

9. In view of the above, the Original Application is **allowed**. The

impugned order, if any, is set aside. The applicant shall be given one notional increment for the period from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2021, as he has completed one full year of service, though his increment fell on 01.07.2021, for the purpose of pensionary benefits and not for any other purpose. The respondents are directed to issue fresh Corrigendum P.P.O. accordingly. The respondents are further 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 @ 8% per annum till the actual payment

10. No order as to costs.

11. Pending Misc. Application(s), if any, shall be treated to have been disposed off.

(Lt Gen Anil Puri)
Member (A)

(Justice Anil Kumar)
Member (J)

Dated : 09.12.2024
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