

Court No.1
Reserved Judgment

ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL, REGIONAL BENCH, LUCKNOW

Original Application No. 327 of 2016

Friday, this the 2nd day of February 2018

Hon'ble Mr. Justice S.V.S. Rathore, Member (J)
Hon'ble Air Marshal BBP Sinha, Member (A)

Ex Hav (Hony/Nb Sub) Puran Chander (Army No 13682527-W),
Brigade of The Guards, PIN – 900746, C/O 56 APO,
Son of Late Badri Datt, Resident of Village- Purara,
Post Office- Gagari Gol, Tehsil – Garud, District – Bageshwar,
(Uttarakhand), Pin Code - 263641

.....Applicant

Ld. Counsel for : **Shri K.K. Singh Bisht, Advocate**
the Applicant

Versus

1. Union of India, through the Secretary, Ministry of Defence,
South Block, New Delhi- 110011.
2. Chief of the Army Staff, Integrated Headquarter of the
Ministry of Defence (Army), South Block, New Delhi – 110011.
3. Officer in Charge Records, Brigade of The Guards, PIN –
900746, C/o 56 APO
4. Principal Controller Defence Accounts (Pension),
Draupadi Ghat, Allahabad (U.P.) - 211014

.....Respondents

Ld. Counsel for the : **Dr. Shaiendra Sharma Atal,**
Respondents **Ld. Counsel for Central Govt.**

ORDER

“Per Hon’ble Mr. Justice S.V.S. Rathore, Member (J)”

1. The instant Original Application has been filed under Section 14 of the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007 by the applicant for grant of pension of Hony Naib Subedar.
2. Heard the learned counsel for the parties and perused the record. Delay in filing the Original Application has been condoned vide order dated 13.04.2017.
3. Undisputed factual matrix of the case is that the applicant was enrolled in the Army on 19.06.1981 and was discharged on 30.06.2005. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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 :-

“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.”

6. 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 Hony 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, further making it 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.

7. No order as to costs.

(Air Marshal BBP Sinha)
Member (A)

Dated : February, 2018
ukt/-

(Justice S.V.S. Rathore)
Member (J)