

Court No. 1

ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL, REGIONAL BENCH, LUCKNOW

ORIGINAL APPLICATION No. 511 of 2023

Tuesday, this the 27th day of February, 2024

**“Hon’ble Mr. Justice Anil Kumar, Member (J)
Hon’ble Vide Admiral Atula Kumar Jain, Member (A)”**

Ex. JWO Bharat Singh (Service No. 656549-B) S/o (Late) Shri Ramadhar, r/o Village – Sidhagar, Post Office – Maharaur, District – Ghazipur (UP) (233230).

..... Applicant

Ld. Counsel for the Applicant : **Shri Shiv Kant Pandey**, Advocate
Ms. Nisha Pandey, Advocate
Shri Amit Pandey, Advocate

Versus

1. The Union of India, through Defence Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Government of India, South Block, New Delhi.
2. The Chief of Air Staff, Air HQ, Vayu Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110106.
3. Air Officer-in-Charge Personnel (AOP), Air HQ, Vayu Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110106.
4. The Director, Directorate of Air Veteran, Subroto Park, New Delhi-10.

.....Respondents

Ld. Counsel for the Respondents. : **Shri Sunil Sharma**, Advocate
Central Govt. Counsel

ORDER

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

- i. This Hon'ble Tribunal may graciously be pleased to set aside Impugned Order No. Air HQ/99798/43/DAV/A&A/CAS Rep dated 24 Jan 2023 passed by Dy Dir AV (Audit & Accts) in the office of Directorate of Air Veterans, Subroto Park, New Delhi-10 (Annexure A-8 to this OA).*
- ii. This Hon'ble Tribunal may graciously be pleased to pass an order of declaration in favour of applicant, declaring that applicant is entitled for last increment due on 30 Jun 2020, with all consequential benefits.*
- iii. This Hon'ble Tribunal may graciously be pleased to direct respondents to Grant last increment to applicant which became due as on 30.06.2020, (was to be auctioned on 01.07.2020) in terms of Para 10, 11 of SAFI/01/2008 and in terms of recommendations of 7th Pay Commission.*
- iv. This Hon'ble Tribunal may graciously be pleased to direct respondents to Issue Revised PPO, in place of PPO No. 349202011238.*
- v. this Hon'le Tribunal may graciously be pleased to direct respondents to Grant revised Basic Pension, DCRG, Commutation and other retiral benefits, after granting last increment as on 30.06.2020.*
- vi. This Hon'ble Tribunal may graciously be pleased to direct respondents to pay the entire arrears which accrued after grant of last increment on 30 June 20*

and accrued on account of revised pensionary benefits.

- vii. This Hon'ble Tribunal may grant any other and further relief to applicant as it deem fit, just and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case.*
- viii. This Hon'ble Tribunal may award the cost of petition to applicant.*

2. Briefly stated, applicant was enrolled in the Indian Air Force on 30.04.1983 and was discharged on 30.06.2020 (AN). The applicant preferred an application dated 24.12.2022 for grant of notional increment which was due on 01.07.2020 on the ground that after the Six Central Pay Commission the Central Government fixed 1st July as the date of increment for all Government Employees but the same was rejected vide letter dated 24.01.2023. It is in this perspective that the applicant has preferred the present Original Application.

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 01.07.2020. He 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) and AFT (RB), Lucknow judgment in O.A. No. 366 of 2020, ***HFL Sarvesh Kumar vs. Union of India and Others***, decided on 12.08.2021.

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. 30.06.2020 since the date of annual increment fall on the following day i.e. 01.07.2020. Since the applicant was not on the effective strength of Indian Air Force on 01.07.2020, therefore, he was not granted annual increment on 01.07.2020 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 a 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 Madras 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, i.e., 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 terms of earlier judgment passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 2471 of 2023, ***The Director (Admn. and HR) KPTCL & Ors vs. C.P. Mundinamani & Ors*** dated 11.04.2023 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 30.06.2020, though the date of increment falls on the next day of his retirement, i.e. on 01.07.2020 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 is set aside. The applicant shall be given one notional increment for the period from 01.07.2020 to 30.06.2020, as he has completed one full year of service, though his increment fell on 01.07.2020, 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.

12. Learned counsel for the respondents orally submitted to grant leave to appeal against the above order, which we have considered and no point of law of general public importance being involved in this case, the plea is rejected.

(Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain)
Member (A)

(Justice Anil Kumar)
Member (J)

Dated : 27 February, 2024

AKD/-