

Form No. 4
{See rule 11(1)}
ORDER SHEET
ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL, REGIONAL BENCH, LUCKNOW
Court No. 3

O.A. No. 1061 of 2022 with M.A. No. 1271 of 2022

Ex Sgt Dharamveer Singh
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>16.01.2023</u> <u>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ravindra Nath Kakkar, Member (J)</u> <u>Hon'ble Maj Gen Sanjay Singh, Member (A)</u></p> <p><u>M.A. No. 1271 of 2022</u></p> <p>1. This is an application for condonation of delay in filing Original Application.</p> <p>2. As per office report, there is a delay of 02 years, 11 months and 24 days in filing Original Application.</p> <p>3. 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>4. Per contra, learned counsel for the respondents opposing the prayer submits that explanation of delay offered by the applicant is not sufficient and he has failed to offer day to day explanation of delay.</p> <p>5. 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>6. Accordingly, delay in filing application is condoned. Delay condonation application stands decided accordingly.</p> <p><u>O.A. No. 1061 of 2022</u></p> <p>7. Matter needs adjudication. Admit.</p> <p>8. Heard Shri VP Pandey, learned counsel for the applicant and Shri DK Pandey, learned counsel for the respondents.</p> <p>9. Learned Counsel for the applicant submits 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 being enrolled on 19.06.1998 and retired on 30.06.2018 is entitled for grant of last increment due on 01.07.2018 as per decision of the Hon'ble Madras High Court in the case of <i>P. Ayamperumal Versus the Registrar, Central Administrative Tribunal, Madras Bench and Others</i> (W.P. No. 15732 of 2017, decided on 15.09.2017) and this Tribunal judgment in OA 366 of 2020, <i>Ex HFL Sarvesh Kumar vs.</i></p>

Union of India & Ors, decided on 12.08.2021.

10. 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. 30.06.2018 as per policy in vogue since the date of annual increment falls on the following day i.e. 01.07.2018. Therefore, benefit of the Hon'ble Madras High Court order being *in personam* cannot be extended to the applicant and hence, Original Application is liable to be dismissed.

11. 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.”

12. In view of law laid down by the Hon'ble Madras High Court, upheld by the Hon'ble Apex Court, we are of the view that since the applicant had completed one full year service as on 30.06.2018, but the increment fell due on the next day of his retirement 01.07.2018, on which date he was not in service, he has to be treated as having completed one full year of service.

13. 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 01.07.2017 to 30.06.2018, as he has completed one full year of service, though his increment fell on 01.07.2018, for the purpose of pensionary benefits and not for any other purpose, after verifying documents. 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

14. Let a copy of this order be provided to the learned Counsel for the parties.

15. No order as to costs.

(Maj Gen Sanjay Singh)
Member (A)

(Justice Ravindra Nath Kakkar)
Member (J)

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