IN THE MAHARASHTRA ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL, MUMBAI

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO.958 OF 2022

DISTRICT: MUMBAI SUBJECT: PAY AND ALLOWANCES

1)	Shri Ambadas Durgadas Wankhade Aged about 62 years, Retired Clerk Assistant Rationing Officer, and residing at, Shivparvati CHS Ltd. Flat No.B-103, Sector No.9, Airoli Navi Mumbai 400 708))))
2)	Shri Sudhakar Baliram Wankhede Aged: about 62 years, Retired Clerk Rationing Inspector, and residing at Kuldipak CHS Room No.02, Tisgaon Naka, Near Siddhivinayak Hospital Kalyan (East), Mumbai.))))
3)	Shri Babu Pandu Jadhav Aged about 62 years, Retired Clerk, Rationing Officer, and residing at Nivara CHS, Plot No.D-1, Near Star Colony, Manpada Road, Dombivli (E) Mumbai.))))
4)	Shri Dilip Bhalchandra Joshi, Aged about 66 years, Retired Clerk, Assistant Rationing Officer, and Residing at 16/10, Vivekanand CHS Gurumandir Road, Near Joshi High School, Dombivli (E) District Thane))))
5)	Shri Balshiram Pandurang Muluk, Aged about 61 years, Retired Clerk, Rationing Officer, and residing at Gawari Chawl, No.1/2, Saikripa CHS Salpadevipada, L.B.S. Road, Near Harculas Company, Mulund (W) Mumbai 400 080)))))) Applicant

Versus

1)	Government of Maharashtra Through Principal Secretary, Food, Civil Supply and Consumer Protection Department, Mantralaya Mumbai 32))))
2)	Government of Maharashtra, Through Principal Secretary, General Administration Department Mantralaya, Mumbai 32)))
3)	Controller of Rationing and, Director of Civil Supplies, Having its office at Royal Insurance Building, 5th floor, 14 Jamshedji Tata Road, Churchgate, Mumbai 20))))
4)	Deputy Controller of Rationing, Mumbai, having its office at Royal Insurance Building, 5th floor, 14- Jamshedji Tata Road, Churchgate Mumbai 400 020))))
5)	Accountant General, Maharashtra State-1, having its office at M.K. Road, Mumbai)) Respondents

Shri Om M. Lonkar, learned Advocate holding for Shri Makarand D. Lonkar, learned Advocate for the Applicant.

Smt. Archana B. Kologi, learned Presenting Officer for the Respondents.

CORAM : A.P. KURHEKAR, MEMBER (J).

DATE : 30.09.2022.

JUDGMENT

1. The Applicants has filed these present O.As. claiming benefit of increment which was due on 1st July of the concerned year of retirement. They retired in between 2015 to 2020 on 30th June of the concerned year. Following period shows details of the date of joining, retirement etc.

Sr. No.	Name of the Petitioner	Designation	Office at the time of retirement	Date of Joining	Date of Retirement
1.	Ambadas Durgadas Wankhade	Assistant Rationing Officer.		05/06/1993	30/06/2019
2.	Sudhakar Baliram Wankhede	Rationing Inspector.	Deputy Controller of Rationing, Churchgate, Mumbai 20	18/01/1994	30/06/2017
3.	Babu Pandu Jadhav	Rationing Officer.		27/05/1982	30/06/2017
4.	Dilip Bhalchandra Joshi	Assistant Rationing Officer.		23/11/1982	30/06/2015
5.	Balshiram Pandurang Muluk	Rationing Officer.		30/06/1982	30/06/2020

- 2. This matter was taken up for admission yesterday and having noticed that the issue in the present O.A. is already decided by the Tribunal in various proceeding on the basis of decision of Hon'ble Supreme Court, Hon'ble High Court & this Tribunal the learned P.O. was directed to take the instruction from the Respondents as to why the Applicants being similarly situated person, similar relief should not be granted to them and mater was adjourned for today.
- 3. Today learned P.O. all that submits that even if the Tribunal as well as Hon'ble Supreme Court granted relief to grant increment due on 1st July to retired Government servant but the Government has not yet

taken policy decision so as to make it applicable to all Government servants.

- 4. The Government may take its own time but that cannot be the reason for not granting relief to the Applicants who are similarly situated person. Indeed the Government ought to have taken decision in this behalf much earlier so as to apply to all Government servants without asking them to approach the Tribunal and unnecessarily burdening the work of the Tribunal.
- 5. The Applicants stand retired on 30th June of the concerned year as shown in the Chart above. In terms of recommendation of 6th Pay Commission by way of uniformity, the decision was taken to grant annual increment on 1st July of each year. Since Applicants stand retired on one day earlier i.e. on 30th June of the concerned year, they were not granted the benefit of next increment, which was due and payable on 1st July of the concerned year. Thus, there is no denying that Applicants have put in one year complete service and were entitled for next increment, but for retirement one day earlier. Since they were not granted next increment due on 1st July of the concerned year, it resulted into less retiral benefits.
- 6. As stated above, issue of entitlement of Government servants to increment due on 1st July is no-more *res-integra* in view of various decision rendered by this Tribunal on the basis of Judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court and Hon'ble High Court. In following cases the Government servant held entitlement to increment due on 1st July, though they retired one day earlier.
 - A) W.P. No.15732/2017 in case of P. Ayyamperumal v/s The Registrar, Central Administrative Tribunal & Ors, decided on 15.09.2017 in which benefit of increment due on 1st July was gratned and it was confirmed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and SLP was also dismissed.

- B) W.P. No.6396/2020 (Prakash Choudhary V/s State of Maharashtra) decided on 24.06.2021.
- C) W.P.No.5864/2019 (Pandurang Vithobaji Dhumne & Ors. V/s State of Maharashtra & Ors.) decided on 02.03.2022.
- D) W.P. No.3028/2021 (Kailash G. Sahuji & Ors. V/s The State of Maharashtra & Ors.) decided on 02.05.2022.
- E) O.A. No.950/2019 decided with bunch of other O.As by this Tribunal on 05.07.2022.
- F) O.A. No.801/2022 decided by this Tribunal on 08.09.2022.
- 7. In view of aforesaid discussion the Applicants being similarly situated Government servants are entitled to the said benefits. Indeed, the Government of Maharashtra has also issued circular dated 28.02.2017 giving direction to the Departments for adherence to general judicial principles in service matters on the basis of decision of Hon'ble Supreme Court in **State of Uttar Pradesh & Ors. Vs. Arvind Kumar Srivastava** reported in **2015** (1) SCC 347 but in vain.
- 8. In this view of the matter, I have absolutely no hesitation to hold that the Applicants are entitled to benefit of increment which was due on 1st July of the concerned year. This notional inclusion of increment shall be considered for calculating Applicant's pension, gratuity and other retiral benefits subject to restriction of arrears of preceding three years. Hence the order.

ORDER

- A) The Original Application is allowed.
- B) The Applicants are held entitled for increment due on 1st July of the concerned year of their retirement. It shall be reckoned with for the purpose of pension and gratuity and other retiral benefits subject to rider that the Applicants would be entitled to arrears of monetary benefits for the

period of three years only preceding the date of filing Original Applications.

- C) The Respondents are directed to make payment of arrears accordingly within three months from today and also to ensure that revised pension is paid accordingly.
- D) No order as to costs.

Sd/-(A.P. Kurhekar) Member (J)

Place: Mumbai Date: 30.09.2022

Dictation taken by: N.M. Naik.

Uploaded on:_____

 $G:\ \ NAIK\ \ 2022\ \ O3-Judgment\ \ \ 09-September\ \ 2022\ \ O.A.\ \ No.958\ of\ \ 2022_J.\quad 30.09.2022\ \ (Pay\ and\ Allowances). doc$