



**IN THE HIGH COURT OF MADHYA PRADESH
AT JABALPUR**

BEFORE

**HON'BLE SHRI JUSTICE SURESH KUMAR KAIT,
CHIEF JUSTICE**

&

HON'BLE SHRI JUSTICE VIVEK JAIN

ON THE 15th OF APRIL, 2025

WRIT PETITION No. 35255 of 2024

SANTOSH JATTAP

Versus

STATE OF M.P. AND OTHERS

AND

**WP/41423/2024, WP/10518/2025, WP/10619/2025, WP/10940/2025, WP/11141/2025,
WP/11259/2025, WP/11311/2025, WP/11343/2025, WP/11530/2025, WP/11538/2025,
WP/11560/2025, WP/11562/2025, WP/11627/2025, WP/11737/2025, WP/11742/2025,
WP/11791/2025, WP/11982/2025, WP/12080/2025, WP/12143/2025, WP/12259/2025,
WP/12284/2025, WP/12297/2025, WP/12490/2025, WP/12550/2025, WP/12587/2025,
WP/12685/2025, WP/12715/2025, WP/12946/2025**

Appearance:

*Shri Rizwan Khan, Shri Rajneesh Gupta, Shri Abhinav Shrivastava,
Shri Ashish Kumar Kurmi, Shri Dharendra Kumar Khare, Shri Raja
Bhaiya Tiwari, Shri Rajesh Prasad Dubey, Shri Rahul Mishra, Shri
Harsh Gupta, Shri Sudeep Singh Saini, Shri Satya Prakash Mishra, Shri
Ashish Vishwakarma, Shri Anil Kumar Tiwari, Shri Chandra Shekhar
Upadhyay, Shri Sachindra Kumar Raghuwanshi, Shri Jitendra Tiwari,
Shri Devraj Vishwakarma, Shri Amit Kumar Bajpai, Shri Vijay Kumar
Shukla, Shri Yogesh Prasad Mishra, Shri Vitthal Rao Jumre, Shri Harsh
Jha, Ms. Vandana Tripathi, Shri Anil Kumar Tiwari, Shri Hemant Kumar
Bhannarwar, Shri Bhole Nath Sharma and Shri Bhupendra Kumar
Mishra – Advocates for petitioners.*



Shri B.D. Singh, Deputy Advocate General with Dr. S.S. Chouhan and Shri Anubhav Jain - Government Advocates for respondents/State.

ORDER

Per: Suresh Kumar Kait, Chief Justice

In all these writ petitions, a common question of fact and law is involved and therefore, they are heard analogously and disposed of by this common order.

2. A common grievance of the petitioners in this batch of writ petitions is with regard to grant of annual increment which became due on completion of one year's service before attaining the age of superannuation. In some of the cases, the petitioners or the employees whose widows/legal heirs have approached this Court, have retired from service on 30th June and while in others, they have retired on 31st December of the year of their superannuation. It is their case that they have not been extended the benefit of increment which otherwise became due to them on 1st July of the same year or 1st January of the next year, as the case may be. Hence, these petitions have been filed.

3. Learned counsel for the petitioners have placed reliance upon the judgment of the Supreme Court in the case of ***Director (ADMN) and HR KPTCL v. C.P. MUNDINAMANI***, 2023 SCC OnLine SC 401, wherein it is held that the entitlement to receive annual increment crystallises when the Government servant completes a requisite length of service with good conduct and becomes payable on the succeeding day. The Supreme Court further held that annual increment earned on the last day of service for rendering good service preceding one year from the date of retirement



with good behaviour and efficiency was liable to be paid to the employees.

4. Circular dated 15.03.2024 issued by the Finance Department of the State of Madhya Pradesh has also been referred to, wherein all departments have been directed to grant annual increment to all the employees who have retired on 30th June / 31st December with regard to annual increment that became payable on 1st July or 1st January, as the case may be. Hence, it is prayed that the respondents may be directed to extend the pensionary benefits to the petitioners after adding annual increment from the due date along with arrears and interest thereon within a stipulated time.

5. Learned counsel for the State submits that the issue involved in the present petitions is covered by the said Circular and the same is being implemented and the cases are being scrutinized and processed accordingly.

6. Be that as it may, since petitioners/employees superannuated from service on 30th June or 31st December as the case may be, they are entitled to get the annual increment on the succeeding day of their retirement i.e. on 1st of July or 1st of January, as the case may be.

7. That this Court following the judgment of the Supreme Court in the case of ***Rushibhai Jagdishchandra Pathak Vs. Bhavnagar Municipal Corporation***, 2022 SCC Online SC 641 had noticed that as there was delay in approaching the Court, the benefit of arrears was restricted to a period of three years immediately preceding the filing of the petition. However, the Supreme Court in respect of ***C.P. Mundinamani*** (*supra*) has clarified by order dated 06.09.2024 as further modified vide order



dated 20.02.2025 in Miscellaneous Application (Diary) No.2400/2024 in Civil Appeal No. 3933/2023 titled ***Union of India & Another Vs. M. Siddaraj*** as under:

“(a). The judgment dated 11.04.2023 will be given effect to in case of third parties from the date of the judgment, that is, the pension by taking into account one increment will be payable on and after 01.05.2023. Enhanced pension for the period prior to 31.04.2023 will not be paid.

(b) For persons who have filed writ petitions and succeeded, the directions given in the said judgment will operate as res judicata, and accordingly, an enhanced pension by taking one increment would have to be paid.

(c) The direction in (b) will not apply, where the judgment has not attained finality, and cases where an appeal has been preferred, or if filed, is entertained by the appellate court.

(d) In case any retired employee filed an application for intervention/impleadment/writ petition/original application before the Central Administrative Tribunal/High Courts/this Court, the enhanced pension by including one increment will be payable for the period of three years prior to the month in which the application for intervention/ impleadment/ writ petition/ original application was filed.”

8. The Hon'ble Apex Court has held that the clause (d) will not apply to the retired Government employees who filed the petition / original application before the High Court or Tribunal after the judgment passed in case of **Union of India and another V/s M. Siddaraj (passed on 19.05.2023 in Civil Appeal No.3933/2023)** and in such cases clause (a) will apply. It has also been held that it will be open to any person aggrieved by non-compliance of the aforesaid directions to approach the concerned authorities in the first instance and if required, the administrative Tribunal or the High Court as per law. The Government



has been directed to examine the cases of the petitioner in terms of the aforesaid order passed on 20.02.2025 and comply with the same expeditiously.

9. In this view of the matter, in these cases as there is a delay by the petitioners in approaching the Court, the benefit of arrears shall be restricted and shall be payable only w.e.f. 01.05.2023 along with interest @ 7% per annum as directed by the Supreme Court in the case of ***M. Siddaraj*** (*supra*).

10. Accordingly, the respondents are directed to grant the annual increment to the petitioners which became due to them on 1st of July of the year of their superannuation or 1st of January of the succeeding year, as the case may be, with all consequential benefits in the above manner. Further, it is directed that the amount accrued in favour of the petitioners on account of annual increment be paid to them within a period of six weeks in accordance with the order of the Supreme Court dated 20.02.2025 passed in the case of ***M. Siddaraj*** (*supra*).

11. In view of the foregoing, all these writ petitions are disposed of in the above terms.

(SURESH KUMAR KAIT)
CHIEF JUSTICE

(VIVEK JAIN)
JUDGE