

COURT NO. 1
ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

2.

RA 25/2024 WITH MA 2019/2024 IN OA 853/2020

Union of India & Ors.	Applicants
Versus		
Sub Maj Rajesh Kumar Yadav	Respondent

For Applicants	:	Mr. Arvind Patel, Advocate
For Respondent	:	Mr. S S Pandey, Advocate

CORAM

HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE RAJENDRA MENON, CHAIRPERSON
HON'BLE LT GEN P.M. HARIZ, MEMBER (A)

ORDER
13.05.2024

MA 2019/2024

Keeping in view the averments made in this application for condonation of delay in filing the RA is condoned.

2. The MA stands disposed of.

RA 25/2024

3. This application has been filed under Section 14 (4) (F) of the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007, by the applicants (respondents in OA 853/2020) seeking a review of the order dated 03.12.2021 passed by this Tribunal.

4. OA 853/2020 was filed by the applicant therein with the prayer that his pay in the 6th CPC regime be fixed from the date of the ante date seniority (01.08.2008)

granted against physical promotion to the rank of Nb Sub on 11.11.2008. After due consideration of the matter, the OA was allowed and vide our order dated 03.12.2021, the respondents were directed to:-

- (a) Review the pay fixed of the applicant on his promotion to Nb Sub in the 6th CPC and after due verification, re-fix his pay in a manner that is most beneficial to him, while ensuring that he does not draw less pay than his juniors;
- (b) Thereafter re-fix his pay in all subsequent ranks and on transition to 7th CPC; and
- (c) Issue all arrears, including the amount recovered, if any, within three months of this order.

5. The applicants here (respondents in OA 853/2020) have prayed that the RA be allowed and that the AFT (PB) order dated 03.12.2021 in OA 853/2020 be reviewed.

6. The counsel for the applicants (respondents in the OA) stated that the respondent (applicant in OA) was enrolled in the Indian Army on 28.02.1993 and was re-mustered into Master Tech and promoted to the rank of Havildar and appointed as a HMT (A) vehicle w.e.f 23.03.2005 with ante date seniority w.e.f. 06.03.2005. The respondent (applicant in OA) was then promoted to the rank of Nb Sub on 11.11.2008

with date of seniority as 01.08.2008. The counsel for the applicants further stated that since the respondent (applicant in OA) was now promoted after the transition period and having already had his pay fixed in the revised pay structure of 6th CPC, his pay fixation was governed by the provisions of Para 14 of SAI 1/S/2008. The counsel further emphasised that pay and allowances on promotion is fixed only on the date of physical assumption and not from the date of ante date seniority, where granted. The counsel further added that the date of seniority would reckon for all future promotions and other considerations where date of seniority was a criteria and does not have any impact on the pay and allowances on the rank in which the seniority is adjusted. That the respondent (applicant in OA) did not enjoy the benefit of exercising an option to fix his pay from the date of his promotion to the rank of Nb Sub on 11.11.2008 as this date was beyond the stipulated duration of the transition period which was from 01.01.2006 to 11.10.2008.

7. We have examined an identical issue in the case of Sub D Subramani Vs. Union of India and Ors., MA 2376/2022 in OA 808/2019 with RA 33/2022 with MA 3199/2022 in OA 808/2019, wherein, the applicant was physically promoted to the rank of Nb Sub on 18.10.2008 with ante

date seniority as on 01.10.2008 and had prayed for the most beneficial option. While the OA 808/2019 was allowed, the order was reviewed in the RA 33/2022; order dated 08.11.2021 was recalled and the OA 808/2019 was dismissed. Relevant extracts from order dated 23.02.2023 in the RA 33/2022 in OA 808/2019 is reproduced below:

11. *The issue pertaining to date of promotion reckoning from the date of physical assumption and the relevance of grant of date of seniority has been examined in AFT, Regional Bench, Jaipur, order dated 15.04.2021 in OA 18/2018. The applicant in OA 18/2018 too was promoted to the rank of Nb Sub on 06.11.2008 (date of physical assumption) with ante date seniority of 05.10.2008 and had, therefore, prayed that his pay in 6th CPC be fixed from 05.10.2008, by granting him the most beneficial option. The AFT, (RB), held that he was only entitled to fix his pay and allowances from the date of physical assumption and not from the ante date of seniority. Relevant portions of this order are reproduced below :-*

3. *Heard and considered the submissions of Learned Counsels for the parties and perused the material placed on record. The question that falls for consideration is whether the Applicant is entitled to get pay and allowances in the revised pay structure from the date of promotion to the rank of Nb Sub with ante-date seniority on 05.10.2008 or from the date of physical assumption of the rank on 06.11.2008.*

4. *Perusal of the material on records shows that the Applicant physically assumed the rank of Nb Sub on 06.11.2008 with ante-date seniority of 05.10.2008. In the reply statement, the Respondents submitted that since the Applicant assumed the promotion physically on 06.11.2008, i.e., after publication of Notification on 11.10.2008, his pay has been correctly fixed from the date of physical assumption of promotion in terms of IHO of MoD (Army) letter dated 12.03.2001 (Annexure R/3), which reads as*

"1. A unit has represented that promotions are issued by Records retrospectively without anti-date seniority, in case of late passing of mandatory mil edn, as a result junior become senior and indi loses pay and allowances in between date of prom notified in the prom order as well as physical assumption of prom.

2. This trend has shown an alarming increase in the recent past from some Line Dtes, where a large number of cases of such prom received, which leads to the only logical inference that there is some intrinsic infirmity in planning which has given spurt to such cases.

3. It is clarified that promotion can be legally enforced on an individual on the first vac as per his seniority subject to fulfillment of QR. However, prom will be notified in the Pt II order from date of physical assumption and pay & allces will be regulated accordingly. In the case of lacking mil ed due to various reasons and it is not possible to reserve vac due to administrative difficulties for a particular indl who is senior, junior will be promoted on the first vac. Consequent to passing of mandatory mil edn, former one will be illegible for prom on the next vac and he will be given anti-date seniority from date of passing of lacking edn, irrespective of whether Junior is senior or otherwise, to maintain their inter-se-seniority."

5. Careful perusal of Para 1 and 3 of the above letter makes it amply clear that the Part II Order for promotion has to be notified from the date of physical promotion and pay and allowances will be regulated from the date of physical promotion and not from the date of seniority. In terms of the above letter, the Applicant should have exercised option for pay fixation from the date of physical assumption of the rank, ie 06.11.2008 and not from the date of seniority of promotion, ie 05.10.2008. Therefore, the Respondents have not erred in rejecting the Part II Order dated 24.09.2011. Moreover, as per Para 7 (b) of SAI 1/S/2008, in cases where a PBOR has been placed in a higher pay scale between is day of January 2006 and the date of notification of this instruction (ie., 11.10.2008) on account of promotion, upgradation of pay scale etc., the individual may elect to switch over to the revised pay structure from the date of such promotion, upgradation, etc. In the present case, the Applicant physically assumed the rank of Nb Sub on 06.11.2008, and in fact no window was available to exercise option for pay fixation after 11.10.2008.

6 to 7 xxxxx

8. In view of the above reasons, we are of the considered opinion that the Applicant physically assumed the rank of Nb Sub on 06.11.2008, ie after the date of publication of the notification on 11.10.2008. Hence, he is entitled for the pay and allowances in the revised pay scale as per Para 9 and 13 of SAI 1/S/2008 and not from the date of seniority of promotion, i.e., 05.10.2008. Thus, the Original Application lacks merit and hence stands dismissed.

12. Implementation instructions of 6th CPC for PBOR of the Army was issued vide SAI/1/S/2008 dated 11.10.2008. As per the provisions of Para 5 of the SAI, those promoted to a higher rank/upgraded between 01.01.2006 and 11.10.2008 (issue of instructions) had the option to fix their pay in the revised pay structure of 6th CPC from the date of promotion/date of next increment/01.01.2006, which ever was most beneficial. Each individual was required to exercise the option within the stipulated period and forward the option certificate to the concerned PAO. Where an option was not exercised or, was exercised beyond the stipulated period, the pay in the revised pay structure was fixed as on 01.01.2006. Thus, anyone who is promoted/upgraded after 11.10.2008, has already been brought into the revised pay structure of 6th CPC and his pay now on promotion/upgradation is to be fixed as per the provisions of Para 14 of the SAI, which is reproduced below :-

14. Fixation of Pay On Promotion on or after 1st January 2006. In the case of promotion of a PBOR from one grade pay to another in the revised pay structure, the fixation of pay in the running pay band will be done as follows:-

(a) One increment equal to 3% of the sum of the pay in the pay band, existing grade pay and Group 'X' pay (if any) will be computed and rounded off to the next multiple of 10. This will be added to the existing pay in the pay band. The grade pay corresponding to the promoted rank, will thereafter be granted in addition to this pay in the pay band. In cases where promotion involves change in the pay band also, the same methodology will be followed.

However, If the pay in the pay band after adding the increment is less than the minimum of the higher pay band to which promotion is taking place, pay in the pay band will be stepped up to such minimum.

(b) On promotion from one rank to another/financial upgradation under ACP, PBOR has an option to get his pay fixed in the higher post either from the date of his promotion or from the date of his next increment, viz 01 Jul of the year. The pay will be fixed in the following manner in the revised pay structure:-

(i) In case PBOR opts to get his pay fixed from his date of next increment then, on the date of promotion, pay in the pay band shall continue unchanged, but the grade pay of the higher rank will be granted. Further re-fixation will be done on the date of his next increment i.e. 01 Jul. On that day, he will be granted two increments; one annual increment and the second on account of promotion. While computing these two increments, Basic Pay prior to the date of promotion shall be taken into account. To Illustrate, if the Basic Pay prior to the date of promotion was Rs 100, first increment would be computed on Rs 100 and the second on Rs103.

(ii) In case a PBOR opts to get his pay fixed in the higher grade from the date of his promotion he shall get his first increment in the higher grade on the next 01 Jul, if he was promoted between 02 Jul and 01 Jan. However, if he was promoted between 02 Jan and 30 Jun of a particular year, he shall get his next increment on 01 Jul of next year.

(iii) PBOR will have the option to be exercised within one month from the date of promotion to have his pay fixed from the date of such promotion or to have the pay fixed from the date of his next increment. Option once exercised shall be final. Form of option is given at Appendix 'D' to this SAI.

(iv) If no option is exercised by the individual, PAO (OR) will regulate fixation on promotion ensuring that the more beneficial of the two options mentioned above is allowed to the PBOR. Pay on promotion may be fixed in the following manner if it is more beneficial :-

(aa) In case promoted between 02 Jan and 30 Jun, the fixation, on promotion will be done from the date of his next increment i.e 01 Jul.

(ab) In case promoted between 02 Jul and 01 Jan, the fixation on promotion will be done on the date of the promotion of the PBOR.

(v) As a one time measure, PBOR promoted on or after 01 Jan 2006 and before publication of this instruction, may exercise their option afresh within three months of the issue off this instruction. Form of option is given at

Appendix 'D' to this SAI.

(c) In case of promotion to Hony Captain/Lieutenant rank on or after 1st January 2006, One additional increment will be given as in all other cases unless this amount is less than Rs 15600 i.e minimum of PB-3 then the pay will be stepped up to Rs 15600. In addition Grade Pay and MSP as indicated in the table below para 13 will be admissible.

13. Thus, as seen from the above consideration, there are two errors in the order dated 08.11.2021 passed by this Tribunal in OA 808/2019. One, that the date of ante date seniority has been incorrectly mentioned as 01.10.2008, whereas, the correct ante date is 01.08.2008. This error itself would not have warranted a review of the order, as this could have been corrected through a Miscellaneous Application. However, the fact that the order granted the option of the most beneficial option for fixing the respondent's (applicant in OA) pay from the ante date seniority of 01.10.2008 (or even if it was 01.08.2008) is patently an error on the face of the record since the respondent (applicant in OA) was not entitled to this since the pay and allowances on promotion are to be fixed only from the date of physical assumption and not from the ante date seniority. And in this case, the respondent (applicant in OA) was physically promoted on 18.10.2008, beyond the stipulated period in which the beneficial option was applicable.

14. In the light of the above consideration, RA is allowed, our order dated 08.11.2021 in OA 808/2019 is hereby recalled and OA 808/2019 is hereby dismissed being bereft of any merit.

8. In the light of the order passed by this Tribunal in the case of Sub D Subramani Vs. Union of India and Ors. (supra), we see that the order dated 03.12.2021 passed in OA 853/2020 granting the most beneficial option for fixing the respondent's (applicant in OA) pay from the ante date seniority of 01.08.2008 is patently an error on the face of the record since the respondent (applicant in OA) was not entitled to this since the pay and the allowances on promotion are to be fixed only from the date of physical assumption and not from the ante date seniority. And in this case, the respondent (applicant in OA) was physically

promoted on 11.11.2008, beyond the stipulated period in which the beneficial option was applicable.

9. In the light of the above consideration, this application is allowed, our order dated 03.12.2021 in OA 853/2020 is hereby recalled and OA 853/2020 is hereby dismissed being bereft of any merit.

10. Accordingly, the RA stands disposed of.

11. No orders as to costs.

[JUSTICE RAJENDRA MENON]
CHAIRPERSON

[LT GEN P.M. HARIZ]
MEMBER (A)

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