

COURT No.3
ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH: NEW DELHI

3.

OA 1843/2024 WITH MA 465/2025

Sub (ACP-1) Mirza Sagir Baig (Retd) Applicant
VERSUS Respondents
Union of India and Ors.

For Applicant : Mr. Madan Pal Vats and
Mr. Abhay Kant Upadhyay, Advocates
For Respondents : Mr. Jagdish Chandra, Advocate

WITH

4.

OA 2859/2024 WITH MA 694/2025

Nk (ACP-1) Karan Singh (Retd) & Ors. Applicant
VERSUS Respondents
Union of India and Ors.

For Applicant : Mr. Madan Pal Vats and
Mr. Abhay Kant Upadhyaya, Advocates
For Respondents : Mr. Jagdish Chandra, Advocate

WITH

5.

OA 2046/2024 WITH MA 2509/2024

Nk Rajan Kumar (Retd) Applicant
VERSUS Respondents
Union of India and Ors.

For Applicant : Mr. Madan Pal Vats and
Mr. Abhay Kant Upadhyay, Advocates
For Respondents : Mr. Neeraj, Sr. CGSC

WITH

6.

OA 4200/2024

Hav Harinder (Retd) & Ors. Applicant
VERSUS
Union of India and Ors. Respondents

For Applicant : Mr. Madan Pal Vats and
Mr. Abhay Kant Upadhyay, Advocate
For Respondents : Mr. Anil Gautam, Sr. CGSC

WITH

7.

OA 4512/2024 WITH MA 1978/2025

JWO Uma Shankar Jaiswal (Retd) Applicant
VERSUS
Union of India and Ors. Respondents

For Applicant : Mr. Madan Pal Vats, Mr. Abhay Kant
Upadhyay and Mr. Naveen Kumar
Gautam, Advocates
For Respondents : Mr. Prabodh Kumar Sr CGSC, Advocate

WITH

8.

OA 4635/2024 WITH MA 4824/2024 WITH MA 4825/2024

Nk (ACP-1) Kesar Singh (Retd) & Ors. Applicant
VERSUS
Union of India and Ors. Respondents

For Applicant : Mr. Madan Pal Vats and Abhay Kant
Upadhyaya, Advocates
For Respondents : Mr. Prabodh Kumar, Sr. CGSC

CORAM

HON'BLE MS. JUSTICE NANDITA DUBEY, MEMBER (J)
HON'BLE LT. GEN. C. P. MOHANTY, MEMBER (A)

ORDER
07.07.2025

MA 465/2025, MA 694/2025, MA 2509/2024, MA 1978/2025

These applications are filed on behalf of the applicants and respondents for condonation of delay in filing in the OA(s) as well as counter affidavit. On due consideration, the same are allowed and disposed of.

OA 1843/2024, OA 2859/2024, OA 2046/2024, OA 4200/2024,
OA 4512/2024 and OA 4635/2024

2. The applicants in these OAs (OA 1843/2024, OA 2859/2024, OA 2046/2024, OA 4200/2024, OA 4512/2024 and OA 4635/2024) are premature retirees (having discharged prior to 07.11.2015) are seeking the benefits of the first revision of OROP and

consequential benefits arising therefore with applicable interest on arrears till the realization of actual payment as per Policy letter no.

12(1)/2014/D(Pen/Pol)-Part II dated 07.11.2015.

3. The details of the applicants are as under :-

S No.	OA No.	Service Particulars	Date of Joining	Date of Discharge	Length of Service
1	OA 1843/2024	JC-804269-Y Subedar (ACP-1) Mirza Sagir Baig (Retd.)	20.08.1989	31.07.2015	25 years, 11 months and 12 days
2	OA 2859/2024	14427793-F Naik (ACP-1) Karan Singh (Retd.)	29.01.1999	31.08.2015	16 years, 07 months and 03 days
3	OA 2859/2024	14424992-K Naik ACP-1 Ismail Shaik	30.12.1997	30.11.2014	16 years and 11 months
4	OA 2859/2024	14409805-H Naik (ACP-1) Sidramappa S Jayi	28.02.1994	30.09.2014	20 years, 07 months and 03 days
5	OA 2859/2024	15142229-F Hav Chaudhari Haresh Kumar Babal Das	29.03.2000	31.08.2015	15 years, 05 months and 03 days
6	OA 2859/2024	JC-279613-H Nb Sub Ashwani Kumar	18.10.1994	31.10.2015	21 Years and 14 days
7	OA 2859/2024	14427647-F Naik (ACP-1) Kuldeep Bansod	21.01.1999	31.10.2014	15 Years, 09 months and 11 days
8	OA 2859/2024	14411925-A Hav Yerkal Nanabhau Mahadeo	17.10.1994	31.08.2015	20 years, 10 months and 15 days
9	OA 2859/2024	14420816-P Hav Ram Krishan	31.08.1996	28.02.2015	18 years, 06 months and 27 days
10	OA 2859/2024	14417017-N Hav Pawar Vivek Dinkarrao	10.11.1995	28.02.2015	19 years, 03 months and 19 days
11	OA 2859/2024	14427632-Y Hav Burbure Ravindra Gulabrao	20.01.1999	31.03.2015	16 years, 02 months and 12 days
12	OA 2859/2024	14429938-A Hav Kesar Singh	21.08.1999	31.10.2015	16 years and 11 days
13	OA	4278163-H Naik	06.08.1999	30.04.2015	15 years 07

	2046/2024	Rajan Kumar (Retd.)			months and 27 days
14	OA 4200/2024	3191895-M Hav Harinder (Retd.)	29.10.1998	30.06.2015	16 years, 08 months and 03 days
15	OA 4200/2024	3191843-W Naik (ACP-1) Rajender Singh (Retd.)	25.10.1998	31.01.2015	16 years, 03 months and 07 days
16	OA 4200/2024	3191828-F Naik (ACP-1) Virender Singh (Retd.)	25.10.1998	31.03.2015	16 years, 05 months and 07 days
17	OA 4200/2024	3190506-P Hav Jaibir Singh (Retd.)	25.06.1997	31.10.2014	17 years, 04 months and 06 days
18	OA 4635/2024	2690899-H Naik (ACP-1) Kesar Singh (Retd.)	27.02.1997	31.12.2014	17 years, 09 months and 29 days
19	OA 4635/2024	2690193-N Naik (ACP-1) Som Raj	22.10.1996	31.10.2015	19 years and 11 days
20	OA 4635/2024	2692043-W Naik (ACP-1) Virender Pal	25.04.1998	31.10.2015	17 years, 06 months and 06 days
21	OA 4635/2024	2691169-K Naik (ACP-1) Devender	12.06.1997	28.02.2015	17 years, 08 months and 19 days
22	OA 4635/2024	2688581-M Hav Sukhdev Meena	25.06.1995	31.07.2015	20 years, 01 months and 06 days
23	OA 4635/2024	2691631-X Hav Sanjeev Kumar	27.10.1997	28.02.2015	17 years, 04 months and 05 days
24	OA 4635/2024	2692226-M Naik (ACP-1) Man Singh (Retd.) ²	28.07.1998	31.08.2015	17 years, 01 months and 05 days
25	OA 4512/2024	740076-G JWO Uma Shanker Jaiswal (Retd.)	02.02.1990	28.08.2015	25 years, 06 months and 27 days

4. Their claim for the grant of OROP benefits was denied on the ground that benefits of OROP are with applicable for premature retirees who got premature retirement w.e.f. 01.07.2014.

5. The applicants have placed reliance on the order dated 31.01.2025 in OA 313/2022 of the AFT (PB) New Delhi in *Cdr Gaurav Mehra vs Union of India* and other connected cases to submit to the effect that they are entitled to the grant of the OROP benefits.

6. In view of the factum that vide order dated 15.04.2025 in RA 9/2025 in OA 426/2023 the matter has been kept in abeyance in relation to only those applicants, who have filed applications for premature retirement after 06.11.2015. The applicants herein who had sought premature voluntary retirement and was even discharged before the date 06.11.2015, will not be affected by the same and is apparently entitled to the grant of the OROP benefits in terms of the order dated 31.01.2025 in OA 313/2022.

7. Apparently, the applicants who were discharged from service prior to the date 07.11.2015 on the basis of their having sought premature retirement are entitled to the grant of the OROP benefits and the matter is no longer in issue in view of observations in paragraphs 83 and 84 in OA 313/2022 of the AFT (PB) New Delhi in *Cdr Gaurav Mehra vs Union of India* and other connected cases, which read to the effect:-

"83. Pensioners form a common category as indicated in detail hereinabove. PMR personnel who qualify for pension are also included in this general category. The pension regulations and rules applicable to PMR personnel who qualify for pension

are similar to that of a regular pensioner retiring on superannuation or on conclusion of his terms of appointment. However, now by applying the policy dated 07.11.2015 with a stipulation henceforth, the prospective application would mean that a right created to PMR pensioner, prior to the issue of impugned policy is taken away in the matter of grant of benefit of OROP. This will result in, a vested right available to a PMR personnel to receive pension at par with a regular pensioner, being taken away in the course of implementation of the OROP scheme as per impugned policy. Apart from creating a differentiation in a homogeneous class, taking away of this vested right available to a PMR personnel, violates mandate of the law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in various cases i.e. **Ex-Major N.C. Singhal vs. Director General Armed Forces Medical Services** (1972) 4 SCC 765, **Ex. Capt. K.C. Arora and Another Vs. State of Haryana and Others** (1984) 3 SCC 281 and this also makes the action of the respondents unsustainable in law.

84. Even if for the sake of argument it is taken note of that there were some difference between the aforesaid categories, but the personnel who opted for PMR forming a homogenous class; and once it is found that every person in the Army, Navy and the Air Force who seeks PMR forms a homogenous category in the matter of granting benefit of OROP, for such personnel no policy can be formulated which creates differentiation in this homogeneous class based on the date and time of their seeking PMR. The policy in question impugned before us infact bifurcates the PMR personnel into three categories; viz pre 01.07.2014 personnel, those personnel who took PMR between 01.07.2014 and 06.11.2015 and personnel who took PMR on or after 07.11.2015. Merely based on the dates as indicated hereinabove, differentiating in the same category of PMR personnel without any just cause or reason and without establishing any nexus as to for what purpose it had been done, we have no hesitation in holding that this amounts to violating the rights available to the PMR personnel under Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution as well as hit by the principles of law laid down by the Supreme Court in the matter of fixing the cut off date and creating differentiation in a homogeneous class in terms of the judgment of *D.S. Nakara (supra)* and the law consistently laid down thereafter and, therefore, we hold that the provisions contained in para 4 of the policy letter dated

07.11.2015 is discriminatory in nature, violates Article 14 of the Constitution and, therefore, is unsustainable in law and cannot be implemented and we strike it down and direct that in the matter of grant of OROP benefit to PMR personnel, they be treated uniformly and the benefit of the scheme of OROP be granted to them without any discrimination in the matter of extending the benefit to certain persons only and excluding others like the applicants on the basis of fixing cut off dates as indicated in this order. The OAs are allowed and disposed of without any order as to costs.”—

read with order dated 15.04.2025 in RA 9 of 2025 in OA 426 of 2023

with observations in para 6 which read to the effect:-

“6. With respect to the classification of the original applicants into three categories, we are of the considered view that the issue for review is relevant only to categories (b) and (c). For applicants in category (b), those who applied for the PMR between 01.07.2014 to 06.11.2015, the principles advanced by the learned Assistant Solicitor General will not apply considering the prospective nature of the memorandum dated 07.11.2015. Therefore, the prayer for review concerning these original applicants i.e., Cat (B) stands rejected.

6(A). For the original applicants who applied for the PMR after the policy dated 07.11.2015 came into effect (category c), the non-applicants (Uol) are directed to serve notice through the respective counsels who represented them in the original application. If the counsel who appeared in the original OAs accepts notice on behalf of the said original applicants, service may be considered complete. In case any counsel does not accept notice, notice to such original applicants be served by speed post. After service the original applicants shall have four weeks to file any reply or objections to the RA, through their counsel if so advised.”
(emphasis supplied)

8. Further, in view of the law laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Lt Col Suprita Chandel vs Union of India and Ors* (Civil Appeal No. 1943 of 2022) vide Paras 14 and 15 thereof to the effect:-

"14. It is a well settled principle of law that where a citizen aggrieved by an action of the government department has approached the court and obtained a declaration of law in his/her favour, others similarly situated ought to be extended the benefit without the need for them to go to court. [See Amrit Lal Berry vs. Collector of Central Excise, New Delhi and Others, (1975) 4 SCC 714]

15. In *K.I. Shephard and Others vs. Union of India and Others*, (1987) 4 SCC 431, this Court while reinforcing the above principle held as under:-

"19. The writ petitions and the appeals must succeed. We set aside the impugned judgments of the Single Judge and Division Bench of the Kerala High Court and direct that each of the three transferee banks should take over the excluded employees on the same terms and conditions of employment under the respective banking companies prior to amalgamation. The employees would be entitled to the benefit of continuity of service for all purposes including salary and perks throughout the period. We leave it open to the transferee banks to take such action as they consider proper against these employees in accordance with law. Some of the excluded employees have not come to court. There is no justification to penalise them for not having litigated. They too shall be entitled to the same benefits as the petitioners."

(emphasis Supplied)

In view of the aforestated, the applicants are entitled to the grant of the relief as prayed.

9. In view thereof, subject to verification of the date and nature of discharge of the applicants, the respondents are accordingly directed to extend the benefits of OROP to the applicants.

10. The OA 1843/2024, OA 2859/2024, OA 2046/2024, OA 4200/2024, OA 4512/2024 and OA 4635/2024 are thus allowed.

(JUSTICE NANDITA DUBEY)
MEMBER (J)

(LT. GEN. C. P. MOHANTY)
MEMBER (A)

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