

ORDER SHEET
WEST BENGAL ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL

Bikash Bhavan, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700 091.

Present-

The Hon'ble Sayeed Ahmed Baba, Officiating Chairperson & Member (A)

Case No. OA – 279 of 2025

Romio Rava - VERSUS - THE STATE OF WEST BENGAL & ORS.

Serial No.

and

Date of order

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30.07.2025

For the Applicant : Mrs. S. Agarwal,
Learned Advocate

For the Respondents : Mr. S.N. Ray,
Learned Advocate

The matter is taken up by the Single Bench pursuant to the order contained in the Notification No. 638 – WBAT / 2J-15/2016 dated 23rd November, 2022 issued in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 5(6) of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985.

Affidavit of service filed be kept in record.

Applicant has filed this application praying for a direction upon the respondent authorities to release the death-cum-retiral benefits in favour of the applicant. Romio Rava claims to be the wife of deceased employee, Ruhidas Rava who expired working under the Forest Department on 27.07.2024. From the submission of Mrs. Agarwal, it appears that such retiral-cum-death benefits were not sanctioned due to the fact that the deceased employee was required to clear some Government loan. Copy of the deceased employee's letter dated 24.05.2017 addressed to the Divisional Forest Officer, Coochbehar Division reveals that he had taken a loan of Rs. 1,80,000/- . The deceased employee states that he is not able to pay the remaining amount Rs. 89,965/- and request for recovery of this amount from his Provident Fund.

Mr. Ray has submitted that the respondent authorities were finding it difficult to release the benefits to the legal heirs of the deceased employee after having come to know that the deceased employee had another wife. Mrs. Agarwal points out that the Collector of Coochbehar District had issued the Legal Heir Certificate in favour of the applicant, Romio Rava, wife of the deceased Ruhidas Rava and her four children. Mr. Ray has further pointed out that as per the affidavit submitted by the applicant before the respondent authorities, it is seen that a total eight persons have been named as legal heirs of the deceased employee, in which one Smt. Pharsi Rava has also been shown as wife of the deceased.

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Having heard the submissions of the learned counsels and after understanding that the primary issue related in this application is determination of the legal heirs of the deceased employee, the Tribunal leaves it to the respondent authorities to examine and take a decision as per law.

Hence, respondent no. 3, the Divisional Forest Officer, Coochbehar Division is directed to consider the prayer of this applicant keeping all aspects open and if felt necessary, an opportunity of hearing be given to all the legal heirs, including Pharsi Rava. After examination of the documents and after hearing the parties, if the respondent authorities come to a conclusion than such conclusion be further translated into orders for release of retiral-cum-death benefits to the entitled legal heirs within a reasonable period of time.

This application is disposed of.

SAYEED AHMED BABA
OFFICIATING CHAIRPERSON & MEMBER(A)

A.K.P.