

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

Secretary, Ministry of Defence & Ors.

Vs.

Ajit Singh

C.A.No.16 of 2003

(Dr. Arijit Pasayat and A.K. Ganguly, JJ.)

06.05.2009

JUDGEMENT

Dr. Arijit Pasayat, J.

1. The challenge in this appeal is to the judgment of the learned Single Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court. b The appellants had filed an appeal before the High Court challenging the judgment dated 27-7-1999 of the District Judge, Bhiwani by which the appeal filed by the Union of India against the judgment and decree passed by the learned Additional Civil Judge (Senior Division), Charkhi Dadri was dismissed.

2. The respondent who was enrolled in the military service on 29-9-1985 c had filed a suit for declaration to the effect that he is entitled to disability pension with effect from 31-3-1990. According to him, during the course of his service, he has sustained 20% disability on account of electric shock suffered by him while he was on casual leave. On account of this he was declared medically unfit and ultimately discharged on 31-3-1990. According to the present respondent he was entitled to disability pension. d 3. Stand of the present appellants was that he suffered an electric shock while he was on casual leave and working in his house near the tubewell. It was pointed out that in any event he had not completed 10 years of service and had been discharged after four years, eleven months and two days of service. Therefore, there is no question of granting any disability pension.

4. The trial court held that the respondent was entitled to disability e pension. Same view was maintained in appeal by the District Judge, Bhiwani and the High Court.

5. Placing reliance on the decisions of this Court in *Union of India v. Keshar Singh*¹ and *Union of India v. Surinder Singh Rathore*² it is submitted by the learned counsel for the appellants that the disability is not attributable to or aggravated by military service. In addition, he had not completed the period of requisite service and therefore, is not entitled to

(2009) 7 SCC 328

1(2007) 12 SCC 675

2(2008) 2 SCC (L&S) 940

disability pension. Learned counsel for the respondent submitted that the High Court's view does not suffer from any infirmity.

6. Keeping in view what this Court has stated in *Keshar Singh and Surinder Singh* the judgment of the High Court is clearly unsustainable and in the circumstances, we set aside the impugned judgment of the High Court. However, on the facts and circumstances of the case payment, if any, already been made to the respondent by way of disability pension shall not be recovered. The appeal is allowed to the extent indicated above.

(2009) 7 SCC 328