

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY
CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION**

WRIT PETITION NO. 15756 OF 2023

Animesh Bakuli.

... Petitioner.

V/s.

Reserve Bank of India.

... Respondents.

None for the Petitioner.

(Petitioner in person not present).

Mr. Anukul Seth a/w. Ms. Aditi Phatak, P. Zariwala, Megha More i/b.
BLAC Co., Advocate for Respondent.

**CORAM : RAVINDRA V. GHUGE AND
ASHWIN D. BHOBE, JJ.**

DATE : 2nd DECEMBER, 2025

P.C. :

1. The grievance of the Petitioner is that he has preferred a Statutory Department Appeal dated 02.08.2023 addressed to the G.M-In-Charge, Secretary's Department, Reserve Bank of India, Central Office Building, Mumbai, in his own handwriting. According to him, the Appeal is still pending.

2. When this matter was heard yesterday in the presence of the Petitioner, we requested the learned Advocate for the RBI to take

instructions. The Petitioner prayed that a direction be issued that his appeal be decided in a time frame.

3. The learned Advocate representing the RBI submits on instructions that, vide communication dated 18.12.2023 addressed to the Petitioner, he was informed that his appeal is not filed in a proper format in view of the regulations applicable. The said communication was attempted to be served on the Petitioner by Registered A/D. The Registered A/D envelope has been returned to the RBI by the Post department, with the remark “Refused 21/12”. The printout of the tracking report obtained from the India Post Website is also placed on record to indicate that on 21.12.2023 at 16:27:31, the item has been returned as refused.

4. The copy of the communication dated 18.12.2023 (2 pages) is taken on record and marked as ‘X-1’ for identification. The photostat copy of the envelop bearing the remark of the Post Department is taken on record and marked as ‘X-2’ for identification. The photostat copy of the tracking report (3 pages), is taken on record and marked as ‘X-3’ for identification.

5. During the hearing yesterday, the Petitioner in person informed us that since he resides in District Nashik, he would not be able to appear in the court today. He is not visible through the V.C. Mode.

6. Considering that the Petitioner's Department Appeal has been disposed off on technical grounds and keeping in view the passage of more than 2 years, we are not inclined to relegate the Petitioner to avail of the remedy of filing a statutory appeal in proper format. He has filed this Petition challenging his removal from service dated 13.2.2023.

7. Issue notice to the Respondent returnable on **19th January, 2026**. The learned Advocate Mr. Anukul Seth waives service of notice on behalf of the sole respondent.

8. Let affidavit in reply be filed by the RBI on or before 23rd December, 2025. Rejoinder affidavit, if desired, be filed by the Petitioner in person, on or before 12.1.2026.

(ASHWIN D. BHOBE, J.)

(RAVINDRA V. GHUGE, J.)