

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT
DISPUR :: GUWAHATI-6.

No.IPRD.35/2009/34

Dated Dispur, the 7th Jan, 2010

Office Memorandum

Sub: ADMINISTRATION OF "JOURNALIST MEDICAL WELFARE SCHEME"

In consideration of the long pending demands of the journalists in the state for their welfare etc., the State Govt. have considered to introduce a new scheme viz, "Journalist Medical Welfare Scheme" for financial assistance to the accredited journalist as identified by Director of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Assam under the Rules of the "Assam Press Correspondents (Accreditation/Recognition) Rules, 1989" for medical treatment of such journalists who suffer from:-

- i) Complicated ailments needing long term, highly expensive treatment/ involving transplant of organs/complicated surgeries/long term medical treatments,e.g.cardiological/nephrological/ oncological/neurological/gastro- enterological/ endocrinological etc. in nature.
- ii) Complicated surgical treatments arising out of injury caused by accidents etc. including the cost artificial replacements of etc., as and where required.
- iii) Incurable chronic ailments requiring life saving devices/treatment etc.
- iv) Any other serious health related problems that may be Medically diagnosed to be of life threatening nature. For the purpose the State Govt. have introduced a new Head of Accounts in the Annual Budget estimates from the financial year 2009-10 and the fund provided under this Head of Account shall be administered by a committee to be constituted by the Information & Public Relations Deptt. with the following members and the DDO powers shall be delegated to the DIPR, Assam.

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1) CONSTITUTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND

The fund shall be constituted under the Information & Public Relations Department (I&PR) of the Govt. of Assam and shall be administered by a Committee comprising:

Chief Patron: Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam.

Patron: Minister I & PR, Assam.

Principal Secretary/ Comm. & Secy., I & PRD - Chairperson

Deputy Secretary I & PRD - Member

Finance & Accounts Officer of DIPR - Member

Director I & PR - Member Secretary

1 Representative from Health Deptt. not below the rank of a Joint Director - Member

Joint DIPR (PL) - Member

Two Senior Journalists to be nominated by Govt. - Members

2) CORPUS OF THE FUND

Rs. 1.00 Crores for 2009-10, with add-ons every subsequent Financial Year under imprest system.

3) ELIGIBILITY FOR AVAILING ASSISTANCE FROM THE FUND

A journalist as defined below shall be eligible for receiving relief from the Fund:

- a) He/she is a citizen of India
- b) He/she is ordinarily resident of Assam, and
- c) A journalist who is formally accredited by the DIPR and fulfills all the norms required for the said accreditation.

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4) ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE UNDER THE FUND

Depending upon the nature and severity of the ailment / disease, after taking into consideration all relevant medical records etc, the Committee may decide upon the fund to be made available per applicant in the following slabs:

- i) Upto a maximum of Rs. 50, 000/- in case of disorders not life threatening in nature.
- ii) Upto a maximum of Rs. 1, 00, 000/- in case of disorders life threatening in nature.

N.B.: Whether the amounts shall be disbursed in the form of reimbursements supported by authentic documents in original or in the form of part/full advance, is a matter of approval by the Committee.

5) INVESTMENT OF FUND AND MODE OF PAYMENT

The Corpus can be invested in fixed deposit in full or part in the Nationalised Banks to earn interest. Payment to the beneficiaries will be made out of the interest income earned against the corpus fund. Interest income will be credited to Savings A/C to be maintained for the purpose. Payments as decided by the Committee, shall be made in the form of Cheques to be issued by the DIPR as the fund for the purpose shall be maintained in the Savings Account.

The Saving A/C will be operated by DIPR and FAO of the Directorate of I.P.R.

6) PROCEDURE FOR SANCTION FROM THE FUND

Proposals for assistance from the Fund will be initiated by the DIPR. With specific recommendations and supporting documents which shall be placed before the Committee. However, in cases of urgency / emergency decision may be taken with the approval of the Chairperson and reported to the next meeting of the Committee for its approval.

7) MAINTENANCE OF ACCOUNT AND CONDUCT OF AUDIT

The accounts shall be maintained by the Accounts Branch of the DIPR, under the supervision of the Finance & Accounts Officer of the DIPR, with returns to be sent to Financial Adviser, I & PRD, periodically.

Periodic Audit may be conducted by the Auditors of AG (Audit).

8) GOVT. DIRECTIONS

The State Government may issue policy directions from time to time for proper administration of the scheme.

9) GENERAL

Grant of financial assistance to any working journalist is not a matter right. Assistance would be extended depending on the Committee's satisfaction as to the eligibility / merits of the cases and the availability of the financial resources for the purpose. The Committee reserves the right to reject or accept any application without assigning any reasons thereof.

The above OM will come into force with effect from the financial year 2009-10 and shall be operative in the subsequent years.

10) DISPUTE REDRESSAL

In case of any dispute, the matter would be referred to State Government for a decision.

Sd/-

(S.C. Das)

Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
I. & P.R. Department

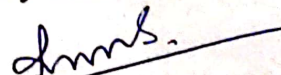
No. IPRD.35/2009/34-A

Dated Dispur, the 7th Jan, 2010

Copy to:

1. The Accountant General, Assam, Maidamgaon, Guwahati-29.
2. The Director of Information & Public Relations, Assam, Dispur, Guwahati-6.
3. All D.C.s /S.D.O (Civil)
4. The P.S. to Minister, IPRD
5. The P.S. to all Ministers
6. The P.S. to Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, Assam
7. The P.S. to the Chief Secretary, Assam
8. The P.S. to Principal Secretary, IPRD
9. The Planning & Development Department
10. The Finance (EC-II) Department
11. All Administrative Department.
12. All DIPROs/SDIPROs

By order etc.



Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of Assam
I. & P.R. Department