

Minutes of the 12th meeting of the West Bengal Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board held on 8th July, 2009 in the chamber of Hon'ble Minister- In Charge, Labour Department & Chairman of the Board at Writers Buildings, Kolkata.

Members and other officials present :-

Shri Anandi Kumar Sahu, MOS, Labour Department
Shri Talleen Kumar, Secretary, Labour Department
Shri Satyabrata Chakraborti, Labour Commissioner, West Bengal
Shri Indranil Sengupta, Joint Secretary, Labour Department
Shri Subal Biswas, Secretary, WBBOCW Welfare Board
Shri R.P. Chakraborty, Chief Inspector of Factories
Shri N.R. Bala, CF & CAO, WBB&OCWW Board
Shri S.S. Chawdhry, BCCI
Shri S. K. Basu, B.A.I
Shri A.K. Sarkar, BNCCI
Shri N.K. Chatterjee, ICC
Shri Lakshman Seth, CITU
Shri Qamruzzaman Qamar, INTUC
Shri Basudeb Gupta, AITUC
Shri Ashok Ghosh, General Secretary, UTUC

The meeting was presided over by the MOS, Labour Department who welcomed all present and initiated discussion. The Secretary, WBBOCW Welfare Board placed the agenda for item-wise discussion.

The proceedings of the 11th Board meeting held on 24th June, 2009 were confirmed. A Committee was constituted as per decision of the 11th meeting of the Board to consider enhancement of benefits and other matters.

A meeting of the Committee was held on 30th June, 2009. As per recommendation of the Committee, following decisions were taken by the Board:

1) Procedure for Registration of beneficiaries, mode of collection of subscription and issuance of pass books:

It was resolved that henceforth the Assistant Labour Commissioners, acting as Beneficiary Registration Officers will issue pass books to the beneficiaries. The Pass Books of the beneficiaries who have already been enrolled through UBI Bank Branches will continue and they will deposit subscription to the respective bank branches through Regional Labour Offices.

2) Refund of subscription of the beneficiaries, Introduction of Family Pension & Invalid Pension as welfare measures under Rule 282:

(a) It was resolved that upon death, maturity or unwillingness to continue as a beneficiary under the Board, the entire subscription will be refunded with interest.

(b) It was resolved that nominee of the beneficiary will be entitled to family pension @ half the amount of pension which the beneficiary used to receive prior to his death.

(c) The Board also agreed to introduce invalid pension @ Rs.500/- per month to a beneficiary who becomes permanently disabled and in case of death of such pension holder, his nominee shall be entitled to family pension @ Rs.250/- per month.

For introduction of these welfare measures, under Rule 282, necessary approval may be accorded by the State Government.

3) Enhancement of Accident benefit under Rule 274, Death benefit under Rule 275 and Medical Treatment benefit under Rule 280:

(a) It was resolved that the maximum amount of benefit in case of accident shall be enhanced from Rs. 1,000/- to Rs.5,000/-.

(b) In case of death benefit payable to the nominee of the deceased beneficiaries it was resolved that for normal death the rate for financial benefit shall be enhanced from Rs.10,000/- to Rs. 25,000/- and for accidental death the same shall be enhanced from Rs. 30,000/- to Rs.1,00,000/- (Rs.1 lakh).

(c) It was also decided that the medical benefit for treatment of major ailment of a beneficiary or his family member shall be enhanced from Rs.2,000/- to Rs.5,000/-, for operation cases financial benefit shall be enhanced from Rs 15,000/- to Rs 25,000/-, in case of suffering from tuberculosis an amount of Rs.3,000/- per year shall be paid instead of Rs.2,000/- per year.

For introduction of such enhanced rate of accident benefit, death benefit, medical benefit Rules 274, 275 & 280, are required to be amended and necessary proposal for doing so shall be taken up shortly.

4) Enhancement of rate of Pension under Rule 276.

It has been decided to enhance the minimum rate of pension from Rs.400/- to Rs.500/- per month and maximum rate from Rs.770/- to Rs.870/- per month. The State Government may accord necessary approval in this regard.

5) Enhancement of the rate of educational benefit under Rule 279.

It has been decided that the amount of financial benefit to the children of the beneficiaries shall be enhanced as follows :-

- i) Passed Madhyamik or equivalent and studying Higher Secondary or equivalent course – from Rs. 1,000/- to Rs.2,000/-
- ii) Passed Higher Secondary or equivalent and studying B.Sc./ B.Com / B.A/ Diploma Course — from Rs.1,500/- to Rs.3,000/-
- iii) Graduate and studying Post Graduate Degree Diploma Course –from Rs.2,000/- to Rs.4,000/-
- iv) For Engineering or Medical Degree students qualified through WBJEE or equivalent examination – from Rs.5,000/- to Rs.15,000/-.

6) It has also been decided that the educational assistance will be extended to the beneficiary himself / herself, if he or she is eligible under Rule 282 as other welfare measure.

Post facto State Government approval may also be accorded for benefits already given to the beneficiaries from July, 2007 to till date. Necessary State Government approval for enhancement of the educational benefit as mentioned above may be accorded.

7) Enhancement of the rate of maternity benefit under Rule 281.

It has been decided that the quantum of maternity benefit shall be enhanced from Rs.2,000/ to Rs.3,000/- w.e.f. 1st August, 2009.

8) Skill Development programme for the Construction Workers:

It was decided that for skill development of the construction workers, special skill development programme / workshop shall have to be organized in every district from time to time. The course contents or the design of the programme / workshop will be developed by a special committee consisting of the following members :-

- (i) Shri Anadi Kumar Sahu, MOS, Labour Department, Chairman
- (ii) Shri S. Biswas, Secretary, WBBOW Welfare Board, Convenor
- (iii) Shri Lakhsan Seth, CITU, Member
- (iv) Shri Ashok Ghosh, UTUC, Member
- (v) Shri Qamruzzaman Qamar, INTUC, Member
- (vi) Shri S.K.Basu , BAI, Member
- (vii) Shri N.K.Chatterjee, ICC, Member
- (viii) Shri S.S. Chawdhry, BCC, Member

The Committee would examine the target group of construction workers for the skill development programme and design appropriate programme and place the same before the Board for approval.

9) Miscellaneous :

The Board has also approved for (i) purchase of two Computers, two printers, Fax etc (ii) purchase of Furniture (Cushion chair, almira etc.) and (iii) installation of one new Telephone connection with Fax facility for smooth functioning of the Board.

The meeting ended with thanks to and from the chair.

 16.07.09
(Anadi Kumar Sahu)

Minister of State, Labour Department
&
Chairman of the meeting of the Board