

Proceedings of the 14th meeting of the West Bengal Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board held on 8th July, 2010 at 2-00 p.m. in the chamber of Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Labour Department & Chairman of the Board at Writers' Buildings, Kolkata.

- 1) A list of the participants is enclosed in Annexure – I.
- 2) The Chairman of the Board welcomed all the members of the Board reconstituted vide Labour Department notification no. 738(17)/IR, dated: 24.06.2010. The Chairman informed the members that Shri Ajay Bhattacharya, Joint Labour Commissioner has been appointed as new Secretary of the Board since 1st January, 2010. The members approved the appointment.
- 3) The copy of the proceedings of 13th meeting was placed in the meeting which was approved by all the members present. A copy of the Action Taken Report was also placed before the members for consideration.
- 4) The progress regarding the welfare scheme / cess collection / investment of fund / beneficiary registration / subscription collection was discussed. The members have been appraised of the progress of the scheme as stood on 31.05.2010 all over the state that are as follows :- 1,21,794 workers have been registered, 1064 beneficiaries have received benefits amounting to Rs.40,64,501/-, registration fee & subscription collected from the workers stands at Rs.1,52,29,560/- and a sum of Rs.163,14,77,423/- has been collected as cess and as on 30th June, 2010 a sum of nearly Rs.183 crores (including interest accrued over the cess collected so far) is locked in the fixed deposit being maintained in 9 Nationalized Banks.

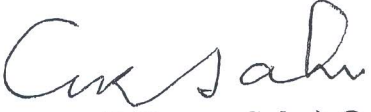
The Secretary also reported that the process of collection of monthly contribution / subscription from the registered beneficiaries is being hampered as services of 'Collecting Agents' or 'Self Employed Labour Organizers' can not be utilized owing to the fact that the remuneration to such agents cannot be paid from the Board's Fund as the administrative cost should not exceed 5% of the benefits disbursed in a financial year. There is also a bar in the Rule as the beneficiary shall remit their contribution in banks specified by the Board and concept of collecting agent is absent in the relevant provision. The members suggested that the Trade Unions have to take up initiative in facilitating the remittance of workers' contribution. The Chairman of the Board informed the members that in our State 480 Labour Welfare Facilitation Centres are being set up in all the Blocks and Municipalities to be manned by one Minimum Wage Inspector, one Computer Knowing Clerk and one Group – D staff to help beneficiary registration, subscription deposition and benefit disbursement. The Principal Secretary, Labour Department informed that the District Magistrate / BDOs have been requested to take necessary steps in finding out the office premises for LWFCs and the advertisement for contractual engagement of Computer knowing Clerk for these LWFCs will be published shortly.

Regarding investment of Board's Fund, the members agreed to the proposal of investing a maximum sum of Rs.100 crore from the present corpus of the cess account in a phased manner for a lock in period of 3 (three) years instead of 1 (one) year as practiced now for higher rate of interest.

- 5) Considering the decisions taken in the 3rd meeting of the State Advisory Committee held on 24.02.2010, the members of the Board resolved that (i) all beneficiaries who have paid regular subscription to the Board for the last 2 (two) years would be entitled to receive as a one time measure, a bi-cycle from the Board. The modalities of administering such benefit will be decided so that the eligible workers can get the same at the earliest. (ii) the female beneficiaries registered for at least 1 (one) year will be entitled to receive benefit @Rs.2,000/- in the happening of miscarriage upto two times (u/r 281). (iii) AIDS and Thalassemia would also be included in the list of major ailments, for paying medical expenses for treatment of a beneficiary and his dependants for every year (U/r 280).

- 6) The Board members have been apprised of the difficulties in arriving at the interest amount payable for individual worker while making final refund of contribution / subscription received from the beneficiaries. Therefore, the members decided that a lump sum bonus / incentive may be given in substitution of interest. The members suggested that a detailed chart/ready reckoner requires to be framed, forwarded to them in advance and placed for consideration in the next Board meeting for its final approval.
- 7) The annual accounts of the W.B.B.O.C.W. Welfare Board for the year 2008-09 & 2009-10 were placed before the members of the Board. The accounting policy that has been adopted following the guideline received from the office of the Principal Accountant General (Audit), West Bengal has also been placed before the members. The Annual Accounts of the Board for the financial year 2008-09 and 2009-10 including the accounting policy were approved by the Board.
- 8) The Secretary of the Board submitted before the Board members that a reply to the draft audit report on the accounts of the Board for the year 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 have already been furnished to the Principal Accountant General (Audit) on 4th June, 2010. The members while according approval of the reply to the draft audit report, suggested that in future such papers may be sent to the members well in advance.
- 9) (a) The minutes of the 11th meeting of the Central Advisory Committee held on 16.04.2010, was placed before the members. The Chairman suggested that for a comprehensive awareness cum enrolment / spot registration programmes, 4 (four) mobile units / vans may be pressed in service in different parts of the State on hiring basis in obedience to the Government procedure. The members agreed to the proposal of hiring the vehicles from the Board's Fund. (b) Regarding RSBY scheme, the Chairman requested that the matter may be discussed at length in the next Board meeting. (c) The Secretary informed the members of the Board that the computerization of the scheme will be initiated once the Finance Department approval is obtained by the Labour Department. (d) Regarding skill development, it was decided that a comprehensive programme / schedule for training of construction workers is to be prepared in consultation with Universities / ITIs and Employers' organization which is to be placed in the next Board meeting. It was decided that the next meeting of the Board will be held next month.
- 10) The post-facto approval from the members of the Board were sought for (i) renewal of contractual engagement of Shri Sunir Kumar Ghosh, working as a Clerk-cum-Cashier-cum Store Keeper. (ii) the engagement of Shri Sudhangsu Sekhar Mondal to work as a Record Supplier-cum-Liaison Assistant in the Board's office on contractual basis at a consolidated honorarium of Rs.4,000/- per month for six months w.e.f., 01.07.2010. (iii) enhancement of the monthly fees of Chartered Accountant Firm namely M/s. Bhattacharyya De & Co. from Rs.5,000/- (engaging one person) to Rs.12,000/- (engaging two persons) w.e.f., 1st April, 2010 for performing the job of maintenance & preparation of accounts and maintenance of records / registers of the Board as per CAG guidelines and filing IT returns etc. (iv) hiring of one vehicle by the Board w.e.f. May, 2010 as per the existing terms of Finance Department.
- 11) The Board also considered to introduce a sitting allowance @ Rs.200/- to every non-official member for attending a meeting of the Board (u/r 261).

The meeting ended with thanks to and from the chair.


(Anadi Kumar Sahu) 26.07.10
Minister-in-Charge
Labour Department & Chairman,
W.B.B & O.C.W.W. Board.