

Proceedings of the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the West Bengal Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board held on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 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 copy of the proceedings of the 14<sup>th</sup> 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 their information.
- 3) Regarding the amendment of the BOCW Rules, the proposals as arrived at in the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Expert Committee held on 29.09.10 were placed before the members of the Board for their views.

After detail deliberations, the Board members agreed to the following amendment proposals:-

A. In sub-rule (3A) in rule 269, the following line may be inserted after (i) – '(j) President or Secretary of a registered Trade Union of Building workers of which he or she is a member.

B. In Rule 271(1) the existing words are to be replaced by the following, " a beneficiary of the fund shall contribute to the fund @ Rs.100/- per year to be remitted annually by paying once at a time or maximum in two instalments @ Rs. 50/- each. This contribution shall be remitted to the fund directly or through agents authorized by the Board and as may be decided by State Government.' .

It was further decided that all SLOs and collecting agents working in SASPFUW scheme can be engaged by the Board, for the purpose of beneficiary registration, contribution collection, documentation etc. as per BOCW Act and rules, under the same terms and conditions as entered with W.B. Unorganised Sector Workers Welfare Board.

C. In rule 285, the following words may be further incorporated:-" In addition to granting benefits referred to in rules 274 to 282 to individual beneficiaries, the Board may undertake the following activities with a view to promote general welfare of construction workers (i) publication and awareness programmes about their statutory rights and responsibilities by developing information, education and communication materials (ii) effective use of media to spread information regarding availability, eligibility, scale and quantum of various welfare schemes (iii) skill development of construction workers (iv) setting up institutionalized studies, commissioning survey, training etc. to ascertain their pattern of employment and impact of various programmes of Government and the Board meant for their economic and social welfare (v) setting up facilities for the beneficiaries for remittance of their contribution, upkeeping of records in related matters and for that purpose, payment of commissions to collecting agents and S.L.O.s at Govt. approved rates (vi) any other activities with the prior approval of the State Government aimed at promoting welfare of the building workers as a whole.

Provided that the expenditure on account of facilities to be provided for welfare of the workers as mentioned above may be made out of the Board's fund, as and when required, from the total interest earned/accrued over the investment made from the cess collected in a financial year. "

For A,B,C above ,the Labour Department may be requested to take necessary action for issuing notifications and amendment of rules.

4)Regarding modification /enhancement in quantum of existing benefits to keep parity with other similar schemes prevailing for unorganized workers in the State ,the proposals as arrived at in the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Expert Committee held on 29.09.10 were placed before the members of the Board for their views.

After discussion the Board agreed to modify / enhance the following benefits:-

- a. Under rule 275(1), the financial assistance for normal death to be Rs. 30,000/-.
- b. Under rule 280, the Board may sanction a maximum amount of Rs. 10,000/-as medical expenses for treatment of major ailments of a beneficiary or his/her dependant. However where an operation is involved for the treatment of diseases like heart disease, kidney etc., the Board may sanction a maximum amount of Rs. 30,000/-.
- c. Under rule 282, the maximum limit of reimbursement of cost of spectacle is to be Rs. 500/- and grant of Funeral Expenses is to be Rs. 3000/-.
- d. Under rule 282, only the surviving spouse of a registered beneficiary is entitled for getting benefit of Family Pension and Invalid Pension .
- e. Under rule 282, a new welfare measure to be included in the form of " Financial Assistance for Marriage- The construction workers who have paid regular contributions to the fund for at least 3 years shall be eligible to get financial assistance for the marriage of their sons/daughters as well as for his/her own marriage @ Rs. 5000/-.This assistance shall be sanctioned maximum twice on receiving the application in prescribed format along with other documents as may be specified by the Board.

5) The Board decided that contribution of beneficiaries will be refunded on death/attainment of 60 years/withdrawal along with an interest rate of 8% of total sum of contribution on that date. The necessary notification will be issued at the earliest.

6) For the purpose of speedy disposal of benefit claims, the Board decided in favour of decentralization of benefit disbursements. Beneficiary Registering Officers in Regional Labour offices will disburse all benefit claims except accidental death, medical reimbursements under rule 280, pension and House Building Advances. For this purpose, a sum of Rs. 5 lakh is to be transferred in the respective 'Administrative Accounts' of RLOs and upon depletion of 75% of the sum, it will be replenished by the Board. However it was agreed that medical reimbursements under rule 280 will also be decentralized after a period of 3 months.

7)For early disposal of medical claims, the Board decided in favour of engaging a part –time doctor on contract basis @ Rs. 5000/- per month in its headquarter and this arrangement will be started in the regional offices of the Board in the districts as well in due course.

8)With respect to assistance for purchase of cycle, it was decided by the Board that eligible beneficiaries will get reimbursement of actual cost subject to a maximum limit of Rs. 3,000/- on purchase of cycle.

The beneficiaries have to physically bring it along with voucher to block/RLO office on a prescheduled date. The cheque towards reimbursement will be handed over to him through a program on that date along with the logo of the Board.

9) The Board agreed to the Chairman's proposal to display banners/hoardings regarding BOCW Act & rules in all district/ subdivisonal towns and also to organize camps as a part of awareness campaign. In this connection posters/banners are to be printed after incorporating the currently available benefits. The Secretary informed that awareness is being generated through display of banners in SBSTC buses, broadcast in FM Radio and also in Newspaper advertisement. It was also decided that a short video film will be made for publicity purpose.

10) The Board decided in favour of continuation of engagement of 2 contractual staff ,namely Sri Sunir Kumar Ghosh and Sri Sudhunshu Sekhar Mondal for another 6 months after their expiry. The Board also agreed to the proposal of continuation of hiring of one vehicle for the use of Board's H.Q. for a further period of one year from November 2010.

11) The Chairman informed the members that pension disbursement for eligible beneficiaries are to begin from January 2011 and the RLOs have been asked to prepare a list of prospective pensioners. In October 2010, two officials of the Board visited the States of Kerala and TamilNadu to learn about their pension disbursement process. After threadbare discussion it was decided that the pension payment order will be issued from the Board's headquarter after obtaining necessary papers from the Regional Offices. The workers will submit the necessary papers 6 months prior to the date of retirement. The bank account is to be opened jointly with the spouse. Their pension will be disbursed through the pension account in the bank , to be sent directly from the Board headquarter. Only for the first time, they will receive pension for 2 months through the respective RLOs. The pensioners will be required to submit life certificate once in a year .

12) The Secretary informed the members that in October 2010, CAG has completed the statutory audit of the accounts of the Board upto the financial year 2009-10.

The meeting ended with thanks to and from the chair.



(Anadi Kumar Sahu)

2.11.10

Minister -in -Charge

Labour Department & Chairman ,

W.B.B. & O.C.W.W.Board