

Proceedings of the 18th Meeting of the West Bengal Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board held at the chamber of the Hon'ble MIC, Labour Department, on 23.03.2012.

The meeting was presided over by Shri Purnendu Basu, Hon'ble MIC, Labour Department, West Bengal and Chairman, West Bengal Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board. List of members attending the meeting is enclosed.

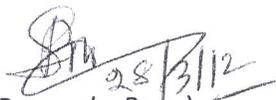
Principal Secretary, Labour Deptt, welcomed all present and started the proceedings of the meeting. He observed that those organizations that have not specified the names of their representatives should communicate the names at the earliest. In other cases the representatives attending the meeting this day will be deemed to be authorized representatives of the respective organizations.

Sri Aziz Rasul, Secretary of the Board initiated the discussion as per the agenda circulated. Highlights of the agenda-wise discussions are as follows.

1. Members discussed the matters related to introduction of **Samajik Mukti Card**. It was unanimously decided in principle to introduce **Samajik Mukti Smart Card** for all Building and Other Construction Workers. The modalities will be worked out to introduce the '**Samajik Mukti Card**' in consultation with WEBEL. As a precondition to that, all data need to be digitized first.
2. Secretary of the Board proposed certain enhancements of existing benefits as provided under the West Bengal Building & Other Construction Workers (RE&CS) Rules 2004 which were accepted by the members of the Board. Enhancement of benefits as proposed and accepted are annexed hereto (**Annexure -A**). **Enhancement will be effective from the 1st April, 2012**
3. Members proposed the inclusion of Brick-kiln workers and stone-crusher workers as beneficiaries under the welfare scheme. The Board resolved accordingly.
4. It was proposed that registration of beneficiaries would be decentralized to the Block/Municipality level for the convenience of construction workers. Members agreed to confer the power of registration of beneficiaries to the Inspectors Minimum Wages posted at Block/Municipality level with effect from 1st April, 2012
5. Proposal for including beneficiaries under Rastriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) fold was discussed. Some members objected to such inclusion on the ground that medical benefits under the Board after proposed enhancement would be better than that of RSBY. Besides it was apprehended that the amount of payable premium for RSBY would far exceed the amount of benefits and as such, actual reimbursement of medical costs by the Board would be a win-win situation for both the Board and the workers.
Representative of CITU favoured inclusion of construction workers into RSBY on the ground that it was a cashless scheme. Representative of INTTUC opined that the pros and cons would require further examination. No final decision could be taken on the subject. The matter will be deliberated upon in the next meeting.
6. It was proposed that present subscription payment mode (i.e. collected quarterly @Rs. 20/- per month) would be replaced by annual subscription mode (i.e. Rs. 30/- to be collected annually @Rs 2.5 per month) with effect from 1st April, 2012. Members present agreed to the proposal.

7. Annual Accounts Statement for the year 2010-11 was placed for approval before the Board. The members ratified the Statement and cleared it for CAG audit.
8. Separate Audit Reports (SAR) as submitted by CAG for the years 2008-09 and 2009-10 were placed for adoption so that those might be placed before the Assembly. The matter would be taken up at the next Board meeting.
9. It was proposed that a site office of the Board may be set up at Rajarhat. Following persuasion from the Labour Department, NKDA has offered accommodation at their existing office on rental basis. The Board members agreed to it.
10. The proposal of engagement of a Chartered Firm has been approved by the Board for carrying out the following works:
 - a. Internal Audit of the Accounts of the Board including that of regional labour offices
 - b. Transactions through accounts maintained at UBI & SBI.
 - c. Tax related statutory returns and hearings.
11. The Board ratified the following matters:
 - a. Post-facto approval of engagement of a tax consultant relating to income-tax issues under sec 143(1) and Sec 12(A) during the financial year 2011-12.
 - b. Filing of Affidavits before the Supreme Court.
 - c. Confirmation of the proceedings of the 17th meeting of the Board held on 17.02.2011.
 - d. Post-facto approval for renewal of engagement of two staff viz. Shri Ashim Kumar Saha and Shundhansu Sekhar Mondal at the Board office for the period from 1st January, 2012 to 30th June 2012.
 - e. Post facto approval regarding expenditure incurred with respect to holding of camps amounting to Rs.60,000/- for Kolkata and Howrah, awareness generation – furniture and stationery purchase for all 64 RLOs @ Rs. 25000/- to the tune of Rs.1600000/- , observance of Social Security Fortnight from 01.01.2012 to 14.01.2012 to the tune of Rs.2.25 lakh and purchase of computers hardware amounting to Rs. 2,12,73,720/-.
12. The appointment of Sri Aziz Rasul, Additional Labour Commissioner as the secretary of the West Bengal Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board vide Labour Department order no. 1158 –I.R. dated 18.11.2011 has been approved by the Board.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from and to the Chair


(Purnendu Basu)

Hon'ble MIC, Labour Department

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Chairman, W B B & O C Workers' Welfare Board