

**Proceedings of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the West Bengal Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board held at the chamber of the Hon'ble MIC, Labour Department on 27.04.2012.**

Members present:

1. Shri Purnendu Basu, Hon'ble MIC, Labour Department & Chairperson
2. Shri Alapan Bandyopadhyaya, Principal Secretary, Labour Department, State Govt. representative
3. Shri Amal Roy Chowdhury, Labour Commissioner, West Bengal
4. Shri R C Dutta, Chief Inspector of Factories, West Bengal
5. Shri Jayanta Kumar Basu, Joint. Secretary, Municipal Affairs Department
6. Shri Madhu Sudhan Dutta, Bharat Chamber of Commerce
7. Shri N.K. Chatterjee, ICC
8. Shri A.K.Sarkar, BNCCI
9. Shri Sudip Kumar Dutta, Builders' Association of India
10. Shri Debanjan Chakraborty, CITU
11. Smt.Dola Sen, INTTUC
12. Shri Dilip Bhattacharya, AIUTUC
13. Shri Qamruzzaman Qamar, INTUC
14. Shri Biplab Bhatta, AITUC

List of official invitees who attended the meeting is as follows:

1. Shri A.K.Roy Chowdhury, Special Secretary, Labour Department.
2. Dr.P.B.Salim, Director,ESI(MB Scheme & Chief Executive Officer, RSBY.
3. Shri. D.P.Bandyopadhyaya, OSD Addl. Secretary, Labour Department.
4. Representative of the P & RD Department.
5. Shri Aziz Rasul, Secretary, WBBOW Welfare Board.
6. Shri Ajay Bhattacharya, Joint Labour Commissioner.
7. Smt. Sumita Mukherjee, Deputy Labour Commissioner.
8. Shri Kingshuk Sarkar, Deputy Labour Commissioner.

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 and he requested the Principal Secretary of the Department to initiate discussion.

Shri Alapan Bandyopadhyay, Principal Secretary, Labour Department welcomed all and initiated discussion agenda-wise.

Sri Aziz Rasul, Secretary, West Bengal Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board presented the Action Taken Report on the decisions made in the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 23.03.2012. He informed the Board members that the decision of inclusion of Brick-kiln workers and the workers engaged in stone breaking, brick-making from fly-ash, cement and other materials should be considered as construction workers for the purpose of extending benefits of welfare schemes under the Act has been sent to the Law Department, Government of West Bengal for vetting. Some members pointed out that Expert Committee and Advisory Committee have not been reconstituted yet.

Thereafter, the issue of inclusion of registered beneficiaries into RSBY fold came up for discussion. Principal Secretary informed the Board members regarding the decision of the Central Government to extend RSBY to the workers as are registered under the Building and Other Construction Workers (RECS), Act, 1996, vide D.O.No.M-21015/2/2008-RW Dated 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2008 and explained the advantages of such inclusion. Dr. P.B.Salim, IAS, Director, ESI(MB), briefed the members about the existing facilities under RSBY and also about the manner of availing of such facilities by the construction workers. Most of the members present agreed to include RSBY for registered beneficiaries. Representative of the CITU stressed the need to carry out intensive awareness campaign to reach the targeted beneficiary. Representative of INTTUC principally agreed to inclusion of registered beneficiary into RSBY fold but expressed concern over the present state of benefits disbursement. Representative of AITUC, however, objected to such inclusion. Hon'ble MIC and Chairman of the Board highlighted the cashless services available under RSBY and also pointed out that finally the effort will have to be a virtuous cycle with greater amount of supply of services leading to greater demand of such services and consequent greater utilization of potential benefits of RSBY .

The Secretary of the Board described the steps to be taken for inclusion into RSBY fold. He informed that as part of the process of inclusion, additional information need to be collected by the existing Collecting Agents/SLOs to fit into the RSBY template and all the data need to be

digitized so as to give soft version of all data to the State Nodal Agency (SNA) i.e. the ESI Directorate. He also referred to the meeting in the chamber of the Director ESI held on 26.04.2012 and proposed that some reasonable amount per beneficiary as may be decided by the Board may be spent for collection of additional information, digitization of data and stationery charges

The issue of inclusion of MGNREGA workers into the existing scheme was also discussed.

Separate Audit Reports (SAR) for the FY 2008-09 and 2009-10 were placed before the Board for adoption. A concept paper, as prepared by the PWC, with regards to preparation of Terms of Reference (TOR) for engagement of a Chartered Accountant Firm, was circulated in the meeting.

After a threadbare discussion, the following decisions were taken:

1. The proceeding of the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board held on 23.03.2012 was confirmed.
2. The Board has decided to cover the registered building & other construction workers under RSBY.
3. It has also been decided that initially enrolment of beneficiaries under RSBY will be done in the districts of Coochbehar, Murshidabad, Nadia and Purulia as per the priorities in the time frames of the schedules of renewal for BPL families under RSBY.
4. The Board has also decided that enrolment fee of Rs 30/- per worker for entry into the scheme would be paid by the West Bengal Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board on behalf of the beneficiaries and premium will also be paid by the West Bengal Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board constituted. It has also been decided that:
  - I. Additional information of the registered building & other construction workers required for the template under RSBY will be collected by the Collecting Agents and Self-Employed Labour Organisers (SLOs) on the basis of commission @ **Rs. 2/-** per worker.
  - II. The raw data of the registered building & other construction workers in the **template** under RSBY will be digitized at local level under the strict supervision of respective Deputy Labour

Commissioners (DLCs). The detailed procedures for such digitization are as follows:

- a. The respective DLCs /ALCs will invite quotations from the Agencies/ Computer Centres run in a particular district/Subdivision to carry out the digitization.
  - b. The cost of digitization should not exceed **Rs.2/-** per beneficiary.
  - c. DLCs /ALCs will be allowed to spend a sum not exceeding Rs.1/- per beneficiary for stationery & Printing Charges
- III. The West Bengal Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board will bear all the expenditure towards collection of additional information, digitization of raw data of the registered building & other construction workers in the template under RSBY and also stationery charges.

5. The Board adopted the two SARs for the FY 2008-09 and 2009-10. These may be placed before the Assembly.

6. Regarding other issues relating to administration of the Board such as engagement of retired persons, enhancement of remuneration of the existing retired persons, deployment of vehicles by the different RLOs and start-up expenditure for the new camp office of the Board at the Rajarhat etc., it has been decided that the Secretary of the Board will send a detailed proposal through the Labour Commissioner for approval of the Chairman of the Board.

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

Sd/-

( Purnendu Basu)

Hon'ble MIC, Labour Department

&

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

16.05.2012