Proceedings of the 42nd Meeting of the WBB&OCWW Board held on 16.08.2023 at 02:30 p.m. at the Conference Hall, Labour Department, N. S. Buildings (12th Floor), Block - A, 1, K. S. Roy Road, Kolkata- 700 001

The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge, Labour Department took the chair and welcomed all present in the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Sri Ritabrata Banerjee, Chairperson, West Bengal Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board (Board). He too welcomed all present. The list of the members, invitees and officials who attended the meeting is annexed herewith.

At the very outset, it was recalled that Ganesh Sarkar, representative of I.N.T.U.C. in the Board had passed away on 30.04.2023. As such, one minute silence was observed to pay homage to the departed soul. Having done so, the Secretary of the Board was requested to initiate agenda wise discussions.

The proceedings of the 41st Board meeting held on 22.03.2023 was confirmed. Sri Debanjan Chakrabarti, representative of C.I.T.U. raised the question regarding the provision of recurring cost to be incurred on account of doctor, other support staff and medicines when the health centres and crèches being constructed would become operational in near future. The Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Labour Department explained that such activity was being carried out on the plot of land by obtaining NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE (NOC) from the end of the respective management of the constituent tea garden. It was made clear that the Board had not to pay any money for such land and added that the Board itself would provide for all recurring expenses connected thereto. Estimate for the purpose has been prepared and tender will be floated by the NBDD in due course. Sri Chakrabarti, however, dissented to this proposal. Further, he was requested to submit alternative proposal from his end, if any. Sri Ashok Ghosh, General Secretary, U.T.U.C. & Special Invitee wanted to know whether there was substantial number of construction workers registered from these areas under the BoCW. The Hon'ble MIC, Labour Department then informed that such decision was taken after consulting the LWFC wise data of the registered beneficiaries pertaining to the area under discussion. It was decided that such data would be shared with the Board members.

The Action Taken Report (ATR) in connection to the 38th and 41st Board meetings were placed and discussed.

2. The report regarding the implementation of the BOCW (RE&CS) Act, 1996 and the welfare schemes framed thereunder including the report on collection of Cess up to July, 2023 was placed and discussed.

Sri Biplab Bhatta, representative of A.I.T.U.C. raised certain issues relating to unnatural / accidental death and requested if financial assistance could be provided in such cases too. The Hon'ble MIC held that the matter may be referred seeking legal opinion in this regard provided such proposal was formally received.

- 3. The expenditure incurred during the period from 01.03.2023 to 31.07.2023 was discussed and *post facto* approval was accorded.
- 4. The proposal for Pilot Project in the districts of Jhargram, Bankura and Purulia regarding 100 days' work for the registered construction workers was placed along with the SOP drafted for the purpose and discussed. The wages incurred in making payment to the registered construction workers under this project would be reimbursed to the appropriate authority on proper verification. Gradually, depending upon the impact, the scheme would be replicated in other districts as well. The proposal was welcomed by all Board members and was approved thereafter.
- 5. The proposal received from the District Magistrates of Jalpaiguri, and Alipurduar regarding provision of bus for school going children of the construction workers was placed and discussed. Considering the remoteness of certain areas and the need of local areas, the proposal was accepted. However, Sri Debanjan Chakrabarti, representative of C.I.T.U. registered his objection in this regard.
- 6. The proposal of additional Health Centres in the land provided by three tea gardens, namely Jadavpur (Jalpaiguri district), Bamandanga Tondoo (Jalpaiguri district) & Thanjhora (Darjeeling district), and, alteration of location of one crèche, namely Bundapani (Alipuduar district) to be substituted with Atal (Darjeeling district) was discussed and approved.

The comprehensive list of Health Centres and Crèches approved so far is annexed hereto.

- 7. It was intimated that the utilisation certificate of funds for the fund already allotted for construction of Health Centres and Crèches has been sought for from the North Bengal Development Department vide number 599 / 09 / 2022-23 / WBCWB dated 08.08.2023. The remaining allotment of fund would be released upon receipt of the same. This proposal was accepted after discussions.
- 8. It was already resolved that two Health Centres would be constructed at Asansol. The proposal regarding a plot of land already identified by the Asansol Durgapur Development Authority for the purpose in connection with one Health Centre was discussed and the cost of procurement thereto was approved and the Secretary of the Board was asked to proceed with the matter accordingly.

- 9. The present status regarding construction of accommodation / guest house at Digha, Puri, Bolpur, Tarapith, Darjeeling and Chennai was narrated in brief.
- (a) It was noted that the West Bengal Labour Welfare Board had already communicated their NOC so that the WBB&OCWW Board could go ahead with construction work.
- (b) The fact regarding Puri was that a few existing guest houses have already been identified and visited by the Board officials too. The Hon'ble MIC, Labour Department opined that the Board members may visit these identified buildings at Puri at an early date and suggest which building could be opted for. Either the building could be taken on lease under proper agreement or the same could be purchased by the Board. It was resolved that it would be better to go for purchase of the building.
- (c) It was reported that the West Bengal Labour Welfare Board was having a Labour Welfare Centre on a plot of land adjacent to the court complex, Bolpur, Birbhum. The members were informed that the matter will be taken up by the Board officials accordingly.
- (d) The meeting with the Chairpersons and officials of the various Boards of the Labour Department held on 14.07.2023 under the chair of the Hon'ble MIC, Labour Department was recalled. Though earlier resolved that one guest house would be built in Tarapith, Birbhum, it was desired by the Hon'ble MIC, Labour Department the same could be relocated at Rampurhat. The District Magistrate, Birbhum would be requested to identify a suitable plot of land for the purpose and transfer the same to the Board thereafter.
- (e) It was discussed in the same meeting as stated in (d) above that the guest house of the WBLWB at Darjeeling was not in proper condition. It was resolved that the existing structure could be demolished / reconstructed and a two storied building may be constructed thereon. The first floor of the new building would be meant for the guest house of the WBB&OCWW Board. The Hon'ble MIC, Labour Department suggested that the Board members may visit the place and give their suggestions in due course. In the meantime, the PWD will be contacted regarding drafting of building plan and preparation of DPR.
- (f) Regarding the guest house to come up at Chennai, the Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge desired that the place may be visited at an early date to expedite the matter. The Youth Hostel at Chennai could be a probable suitable place. If the guest house at Chennai is accomplished, it would go a long way in helping numerous poor patients from amongst the construction workers going there for medical purposes.

- 10. The current status regarding construction of Hostels / Transit Accommodation-cum-Training Centres was discussed. It was noted that land for the purpose was already identified at Malbazar (Jalpaiguri district); Siliguri (Darjeeling district); Haldia (Purba Medinipur district); and, Raghunathpur (Purulia district). It was further noted that the location of the Hostel / Transit Accommodation-cum-Training Centre already approved at Raghunathpur of Purulia District will now be changed to Purulia itself as discussed and resolved in the meeting held on 01.06.2023 under the chair of the Hon'ble MIC, Labour Department.
- 11. The proposal of housing for the registered construction workers was discussed next. The Hon'ble MIC, Labour Department referred to the already existing scheme under the nomenclature **Housing Scheme for All**.
- 12. Eight cases of wrongly deposited cess were reported in the meeting, namely from the end of (a) Pay & Accounts Officer, Farakka Barrage Project, M/o Jal Shakti, D/o Water Resources, RD & GR, Murshidabad, West Bengal 742 212; (b) South Eastern Railway [Office of the FA & CAO(Con)/GRC]; (c) IDBI Bank Ltd., 17, Brabourne Road Branch, Mookherjee House, Ground Floor, Brabourne Road, Kolkata 700 001; (d) Executive Officer, Old Malda Panchayat Samity, Malda; (e) South Eastern Railway [Office of the FA & CAO(Con)/GRC]; (f) Executive Officer, Suri I Panchayat Samity, Kalipur, Barabagan, Birbhum; (g) Second-in-Command (Comn), Drawing & Disbursing Officer, SHQ, BSF, Raiganj; and, (h) Executive Officer, Singur Panchayat Samity, Hooghly. The refund to the applicant depositor against claims already submitted was approved in each of these cases.
- 13. Miscellaneous issues discussed were as follows :-
 - (a) A couple of issues related to land of crèches, namely Coochbehar Tea Estate (Cooch Behar district) and Debpara (Jalpaiguri district), predominantly local in nature, was noted and discussed. However, alternative land was made available in case of the former a couple of days back. In case of Trishakti Tea Estate (Jalpaiguri district), paucity of land was an issue. It was decided that these cases would be taken up later on and resolved accordingly. Apart from this, non-availability of adequate land was also reported regarding the Health Centre to come up at Engo Tea Estate (Jalpaiguri district).
 - (b) Sri Trishanu Bhattacharjee, contractual clerk attached to the WBB&OCWW Board had arrears arising out of enhancement of consolidated monthly remuneration due for payment. The matter was approved.

- (c) The Finance Department, Government of West Bengal had sanctioned interest for the Solatium Fund, maintained at Kolkata, PAO-II amounting Rs. 111,44,55,603.09 at the rate prescribed by the Government for the purpose. This was intimated to the members.
- (d) Regarding the written submission of Sri Debanjan Chakrabarti, representative of C.I.T.U. received earlier in connection with non-deposit of cess in certain cases, it was informed that the matter was already taken up with the respective Regional Labour Offices and Kolkata Municipal Corporation. However, the matter will be followed up once again with all concerned.
- (e) The members were apprised that a writ petition (WPA 17034) was filed in the Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta regarding inaction on the part of Chairman, CBDT in connection with considering and taking a final decision about the application filed by the Board for exemption under section 10(46) of the Income Tax Act, 1961. This was in accordance with the resolution earlier adopted for the purpose. The CBDT authority has been directed to dispose of the application within 6 weeks.
- (f) The matter of revision / enhancement of cess was already submitted to the Finance Department. It was expected that the approval in this regard would shortly be received. However, the issue of gateway for online payment of cess with PNB had already been approved by the Finance Department and the matter would be taken up with the parties concerned shortly.
- (g) An amount of Rs. 6.00 Lakhs was released to the next of kin of three victims of fire accident of Delhi that occurred on 31.03.2023 as requested by the Labour Department. However, this was an interim measure and the fund would be refunded from the end of the Labour Department.
- (h) Sri Biplab Bhatta, representative of A.I.T.U.C. raised the issue of poor infrastructure at the various LWFCs. It was made known that the Board had already procured 150 desktop computers along with other peripherals and distributed them to the RLOs all over the state. In spite of that, he held that most LWFCs were not having the requisite hardware to deliver citizen centric services. Sri Ashok Ghosh, General Secretary, U.T.U.C. & Special Invitee also held the same view. It was resolved that the assessment in this regard would be made through the DLCs posted in the districts and would be placed for discussion and decision of purchase of more computers and accessories will be taken in the subsequent meeting of the Board.
- (i) The condition of Photocopier Machines in the various Regional Labour Offices was no better. As such, it was decided that 14 such machines would be procured

- through GEM after observing all necessary formalities prescribed in this regard and given to the RLOs concerned after procurement.
- (j) The matter of self-registration under BM-SSY was pointed out by Sri Biplab Bhatta, representative of A.I.T.U.C. It was noted that as on date, the relevant window was not available. However, it was decided that the matter would be looked into and decided in due course after obtaining necessary approval from the authority concerned,
- (k) A meeting on Skill Development of Construction Workers was held with L&T on 01.08.2023. L&T would submit a proposal for Pilot Project and would be placed before the WBB&OCWW Board as well as the Screening Committee constituted thereunder for discussion and approval, upon receipt. However, it was categorically assured that the initiative previously taken by the Board in respect of Skill Development was put on hold for the time being.
- (I) The non-officials members and non-official invitees were provided Rs. 1,000/- only as travelling allowance with effect from the 39th meeting held on 14.12.2022 as per resolution adopted in that meeting. However, the said allowance was enhanced to Rs. 1,500/- on request. It was noted that this amount was being disbursed for the same purpose from the end of the West Bengal Labour Welfare Board too. Apart from this, the Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Labour Department stated that in case of the Hon'ble Members of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, MLAs residing beyond 60 Kms from the Assembly House are paid actual expenses incurred for attending sessions in the Assembly. It was decided that the same norm would be followed in case of the WBB&OCWW Board too. Sri Debanjan Chakrabarti, representative of C.I.T.U. registered his objection in this regard.

There being no other point to discuss, the meeting ended with thanks to and from the chair.

(Ritabrata Banerjee) Chairperson

West Bengal Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board

Locations of the Crèches

Sl. No.	Name of Tea Gardens	District	Sub- Division/ Regional Labour Office	Whether Work Order Issued	Remarks
1	Jaybirpara	Alipurduar	Birpara	Yes	N.A.
2	Dumchipara	Alipurduar	Birpara	Yes	N.A.
3	Dalmore	Alipurduar	Birpara	Yes	N.A.
4	Birpara	Alipurduar	Birpara	Yes	N.A.
5	Bundapani	Alipurduar	Birpara	Yes	N.A.
6	Ramjhora	Alipurduar	Birpara	Yes	N.A.
7	Toorsa	Alipurduar	Birpara	Yes	N.A.
8	Satali	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Yes	N.A.
9	Chuapara	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Yes	N.A.
10	Dhowlajhora	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Yes	N.A.
11	Kartick	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Yes	N.A.
12	Rydak	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Yes	N.A.
13	Kumargram	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Yes	N.A.
14	Majherdabri	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Yes	N.A.
15	Kadambini	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Yes	N.A.
16	Ethelbari	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Yes	N.A.
17	Madhu	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Yes	N.A.
18	Patkapara	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Yes	N.A.
19	Mathura	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Yes	N.A.
20	Atiabari	Alipurduar	Birpara	Pending	N.A.
21	Lankapara	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Pending	N.A.
22	Tulsipara	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Pending	N.A.
23	Kamala	Darjeeling	Siliguri	Yes	N.A.
24	Bhojnarayan	Darjeeling	Siliguri	Yes	N.A.
25	Bijoynagar	Darjeeling	Siliguri	Yes	N.A.
26	Simulbarie	Darjeeling	Kurseong	Yes	N.A.
27	Tindharia	Darjeeling	Kurseong	Yes	N.A.
28	Nurbong	Darjeeling	Kurseong	Yes	N.A.
29	Ambootia	Darjeeling	Kurseong	Yes	N.A.
30	Margaret's Hope	Darjeeling	Kurseong	Yes	N.A.
31	Kalej Valley	Darjeeling	Darjeeling	Yes	N.A.
32	Tirrinhannah, Jabra Division, Maniram G.P. (Naxalbari Block)	Darjeeling	Siliguri	Yes	N.A.
33	Thanjhora (Kharibari Block)	Darjeeling	Siliguri	Yes	N.A.
34	Belgachi	Darjeeling	Siliguri	Pending	N.A.
35	Sannyasisthan	Darjeeling	Siliguri	Pending	N.A.
36	Marionbarie	Darjeeling	Kurseong	Pending	N.A.
37	Kiran Chandra	Darjeeling	Siliguri	Pending	NOC Pending
38	Rangaroon	Darjeeling	Darjeeling	Pending	N.A.
39	Orange Valley	Darjeeling	Darjeeling		N.A.
40	Pussimbing	Darjeeling	Darjeeling	Pending	N.A.
41	Tumsong	Darjeeling	Darjeeling	Pending	N.A.
42	Atal	Darjeeling	Siliguri	Pending	This Garden replaced Bundapani, which was forwarded twice with 14th meeting resolution of Tea Advisory Council

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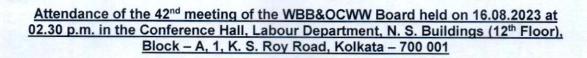
Sl. No.	Name of Tea Gardens	District	Sub- Division/ Regional Labour Office	Whether Work Order Issued	Remarks
43	Sonali	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Yes	N.A.
44	Needam	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Yes	N.A.
45	Debpara	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	Yes	N.A.
46	Grassmore	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Yes	N.A.
47	Killcott	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Yes	N.A.
48	Manabari	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Yes	N.A.
49	Samsing	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Yes	N.A.
50	New Glenco	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Yes	N.A.
51	Redbank	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	Yes	N.A.
52	Kumlai	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	Yes	N.A.
53	Rheabari	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	Yes	N.A.
54	Palashbari	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	Yes	N.A.
55	Chamurchi	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	Yes	N.A.
56	Telepara	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	Yes	N.A.
57	Ranichera	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Yes	N.A.
58	Nagaisuree	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Yes	N.A.
59	New Duars	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	Yes	N.A.
60	Zurrantee	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Yes	N.A.
61	Totapara	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	Yes	N.A.
62	Baradighi	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Yes	N.A.
63	Haldibari	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	Yes	N.A.
64	Indong	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Yes	N.A.
65	Baintgoorie	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Yes	N.A.
66	Nya Sylee	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Yes	N.A.
67	Trishakti	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	Pending	Paucity of land reported
68	Lakhipara	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	8	N.A.
69	Lower Fagu	Kalimpong	Kalimpong	Yes	N.A.
70	T N Chowdhury	Uttar Dinajpur	Islampur	Yes	N.A.
71	Coochbehar	Coochbehar	Coochbehar	Yes	Alternative plot of land received



Locations of the Health Centres

Sl. No.	Name of Tea Gardens	District	Sub-Division/ Regional Labour Office	Whether Work Order Issued	Remarks
1	Joybirpara	Alipurduar	Birpara	Yes	N.A.
2	Dhumchipara	Alipurduar	Birpara	Yes	N.A.
3	Ramjhora	Alipurduar	Birpara	Yes	N.A.
4	Tasati	Alipurduar	Birpara	Yes	N.A.
5	Nimtijhora	Alipurduar	Birpara	Yes	N.A.
6	Turtori	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Yes	N.A.
7	Newlands	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Yes	N.A.
8	Rahimabad	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Yes	N.A.
9	Bharnobari O/D Malangi	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Yes	N.A.
10	Bhatkhawa	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Yes	N.A.
11	Mahuwa	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Yes	N.A.
12	Hantapara	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Yes	N.A.
13	Toorsa	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Pending	N.A.
14	Dheklapara	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Pending	N.A.
15	Dimdima	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Pending	N.A.
16	Central Dooars	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Pending	N.A.
17	Raimatang	Alipurduar	Alipurduar	Pending	N.A.
18	Lohagarh	Darjeeling	Siliguri	Yes	N.A.
19	Tirrihannah	Darjeeling	Siliguri	Yes	N.A.
20	Rungmuk & Cedars	Darjeeling	Darjeeling	Yes	N.A.
21	Rangli Rangliot	Darjeeling	Darjeeling	Yes	N.A.
22	Atal	Darjeeling	Siliguri	Yes	N.A.
23	New Chumta	Darjeeling	Siliguri	Yes	N.A.
24	Sepoydhoorah	Darjeeling	Kurseong	Pending	N.A.
25	Phuguri	Darjeeling	Kurseong	Pending	N.A.
26	Chongtong	Darjeeling	Darjeeling	Pending	N.A.
27	Avongrove	Darjeeling	Darjeeling	Pending	N.A.
28	Thanjhora (Kharibari Block)	Darjeeling	Siliguri	Pending	Included as per resolution adopted in the 42 nd Board Meeting

Sl. No.	Name of Tea Gardens	District	Sub-Division/ Regional Labour Office	Whether Work Order Issued	Remarks
29	Nya Sylee	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Yes	N.A.
30	Sonali	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Yes	N.A.
31	Bagrakote	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Yes	N.A.
32	Redbank	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	Yes	N.A.
33	Chamurchi	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	Yes	N.A.
34	Bullabarie Div under Ranichera	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Yes	N.A.
35	Saraswatipur	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	Yes	N.A.
36	Ambari	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	Yes	N.A.
37	Soongachi	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Yes	N.A.
38	Nagaisuree	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Yes	N.A.
39	Patharjhora	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Yes	N.A.
40	Jadabpur	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	Pending	Included as per resolution adopted in the 42nd Board Meeting
41	Bamandanga Tondoo	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	Pending	Included as per resolution adopted in the 42nd Board Meeting
42	Leesh River	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Pending	N.A.
43	Baintgoorie	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Pending	N.A.
44	Engo	Jalpaiguri	Malbazar	Pending	Paucity of land reported
45	Ambiok	Kalimpong	Kalimpong	Yes	N.A.
46	Asansol	Paschim Bardhaman	Asansol	Pending	N.A.
47	Asansol	Paschim Bardhaman	Asansol	Pending	N.A.



Serial Present No.		Designation				
1.	Shri Moloy Ghatak	Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Labour Department				
2.	Shri Ritabrata Banerjee	Chairperson, West Bengal Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board				
3.	Shri Amarnath Mallick	Labour Commissioner, West Bengal & Membe Secretary				
4.	Shri Tirthankar Sengupta	Additional Labour Commissioner, West Bengal & Secretary				
5.	Shri Kalyan Ganguly	Controller of Finance & Chief Accounts Office West Bengal Building & Other Construction				
6.	Shri Ratan Kumar Singh	Controller of Finance & Commercial Accounts Officer, Labour Commissionerate, West Bengal				
7.	Shri Sandip Nandi	Additional Labour Commissioner (P), West Benga attached to Board				
8.	Shri Ashis Kumar Shit	Chief Inspector of Factories & Member				
9.	Shri Shakti Pada Mandal	Representative of I.N.T.T.U.C. & Member				
10.	Shri Debanjan Chakrabarti	Representative of C.I.T.U. & Member				
11.	Shri Bikash Ghatak	Representative of I.N.T.U.C. & Member				
12.	Shri Dilip Bhattacharya	Representative of A.I.U.T.U.C. & Member				
13.	Shri Biplab Bhatta	Representative of A.I.T.U.C. & Member				
14.	Shri Ashok Ghosh	General Secretary, U.T.U.C. Central Committee &				
15.	Shri Asish Paul	Representative of B.N.C.C.I. & Member				
16.	Shri Satinath Samanta	Representative of Builders Association of India				
17.	Smt. Arunima Biswas	Joint Labour Commissioner (P), West Bengal attached to Board				
18.	Shri Subrata Dasgupta	Deputy Labour Commissioner (P), West Bengal attached to Board				
19.	Shri Abhik Nandy	Deputy Labour Commissioner (P), West Bengal attached to Board				