

Proceedings of the 61th meeting of the Screening Committee of FAWLOI held on 07.02.2024 at 4.00 p.m. in the Conference Hall of Labour Department, Government of West Bengal, New Secretariat Buildings, 12th floor, 1 K.S. Roy Road, Kolkata : 700 001

Members present

1. Sri Moloy Ghatak, Hon'ble MIC, Labour Department, Govt. of West Bengal
2. Sri Barun Kr. Ray, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary, Labour Department, Govt. of West Bengal
3. Sri Jawaid Akhtar, Labour Commissioner, Govt. of West Bengal
4. Dr. Siddhartha Sankar Chakraborty, Special Secretary, Labour Department, Govt. of West Bengal
5. Sri Ashis Kumar Shit, Director-in-Charge, Directorate of Factories, Govt. of West Bengal
6. Sri Panchanan Manna, Deputy Secretary, PE & IR Department, Govt. of West Bengal
7. Sri Dipak Chakraborty, Representative of AITUC
8. Sri Chandrama Roy, Representative of INTUC
9. Sri Dipak Saha, Representative of UTUC

Other official present

Sri Tirthankar Sengupta, Additional Labour Commissioner, Govt. of West Bengal

The Hon'ble MIC, Labour Department, Govt. of West Bengal and Chairman, Screening Committee of FAWLOI took the Chair and welcomed the members and other officials present in the meeting and agenda-wise discussion took place.

- 1) The proceeding of the 60th meeting of the Screening Committee held on 30.05.2023 was approved by the Committee.
- 2) 13 (thirteen) tea gardens in North Bengal having about 13810 workers in total went under suspension of work within a period between 29.04.2023 and 30.12.2023..

The matter was placed in the meeting and in pursuance of Labour Department, Government of West Bengal Notification no. Labr./44/ (LC-Estt) dtd. 16.01.2024, it was held that the eligible workers of the said tea gardens will come under the purview of FAWLOI with effect from the dates furnished below:

| Sl. No. | Tea Garden | RLO | No. of workers at the time of closing of operation (approx.) | Date of lock-out/suspension of work | Date of entitlement under FAWLOI |
|---------|-------------------------|------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Runmook-Cedar | Darjeeling | 1561 | 29.04.23 | 01.06.23 |
| 2 | Moondakothi | | 949 | 24.09.23 | 01.11.23 |
| 3 | Chootong | | 1079 | 29.09.23 | 01.11.23 |
| 4 | Nagri | | 934 | 29.09.23 | 01.11.23 |
| 5 | Peshok | | 401 | 15.10.23 | 01.12.23 |
| 6 | Ambotia | Kurseong | 912 | 11.10.23 | 01.12.23 |
| 7 | Tirrihannah (partially) | Siliguri | 2500 | 10.11.23 | 01.01.24 |
| 8 | Sonali | Malbazar | 358 | 30.12.23 | 01.02.24 |
| 9 | Raimatang | Birpara | 1258 | 11.10.23 | 01.12.23 |
| 10 | Dalsingpara | | 943 | 15.10.23 | 01.12.23 |
| 11 | Dalmore | | 850 | 15.10.23 | 01.12.23 |
| 12 | Kalchini | | 1200 | 01.11.23 | 01.12.23 |
| 13 | Ramjhora | | 865 | 01.11.23 | 01.12.23 |

- 3) M/s Micky Metals Ltd., Amritpur, P.O. Chakdaha, Dist. Birbhum, Pin: 731102 went under suspension of work w.e.f. 16.02.2022 rendering about 190 workers jobless.

Hence, in pursuance of Labour Department, Government of West Bengal Notification no. Labr/389/ (LC-IR)/ IR/ 12L – 16/08 dtd. 16.04.2019, it was held that the eligible workers of the said industrial unit will come under the purview of FAWLOI with effect from 01.09.2022.

- 4) The operating trade union of Martina Surgical Pvt. Ltd., Village: Birshibpur, Uluberia, District: Howrah demanded financial relief under the scheme FAWLOI in respect of 17 workers and 4 members of the staff of the unit on the ground that the said workmen have been rendered jobless on being laid-off by the Management w.e.f. 05.01.2015.

The matter had been raised in the 60th meeting of the Screening Committee of FAWLOI held on 30.05.2023 and as decided, a case-to-case report has been sought for from RLO, Uluberia in respect of the said laid-off workers accordingly.

After considering the said report obtained from RLO, Uluberia, it was held in the meeting of the 61st Screening Committee that the eligible workers of the said industrial unit will get financial benefit under FAWLOI with effect from 01.08.2015 as a special case. The said beneficiaries will continue to get FAWLOI benefit to the remaining extent of his/ her legitimate dues or till attainment of the age of normal retirement, whichever is earlier.

5) Normal operation of 3 (three) tea gardens in North Bengal having about 2472 workers in total has been stopped in the recent past and therefore the workers employed there have not been paid their wages for a few months.

Considering the hardship of the distressed workers of the said tea gardens, it has been decided that the eligible workers of the said tea gardens will come under the purview of FAWLOI as special cases with effect from the dates furnished below:

| Sl. No. | Tea Garden | RLO | No. of workers at the time of closing of operation (approx.) | Date of closing of normal operation | Date of entitlement under FAWLOI |
|---------|------------------|----------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | BamandangaTondoo | Malbazar | 1159 | 08.12.2023 | 01.02.2024 |
| 2 | Samsing | | 1025 | 08.12.2023 | 01.02.2024 |
| 3 | Deklapara | Birpara | 288 | 14.12.2023 | 01.02.2024 |

Thereafter, the representatives of the central trade unions present in the meeting stated inter alia the following:

1) As decided in the 58th meeting of the Screening Committee of FAWLOI held on 14.06.2022, a proposal had been sent to the Finance Department, Govt. of West Bengal for enhancement of monthly financial assistance under the scheme from Rs. 1500/- to Rs. 2000/- but the same had been turned down by the Finance Department on 23.09.2022.

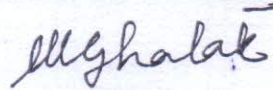
The union representatives stated that the said proposal should once again be forwarded to the Finance Department, Govt. of West Bengal seeking enhancement of monthly financial assistance under the scheme.

2) As per the Resolution adopted in the 39th and 42nd Board Meetings of the West Bengal Building & Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board, each of the non-official members are being provided with a travelling allowance @ Rs. 1500/-.

Citing the instance of WBBOWWB, the union representatives stated that henceforth they should be provided with a travelling allowance @ Rs. 1500/- for attending the meetings of the Screening Committee of FAWLOI.

After a threadbare discussion, the Hon'ble MIC concluded that a proposal for providing the union members of the Screening Committee with travelling allowance will be forwarded to the Finance Department, Govt. of West Bengal for consideration.

As there was no other issue left for discussion, the meeting ended with vote of thanks to and from the Chair.



(Moloy Ghatak)

Minister-In-Charge, Labour Department
Govt. of West Bengal &
Chairperson, Screening Committee of FAWLOI