GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

LABOUR DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

No. 725—L—W./LW/IR-28/65—28th June 1965.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 28 of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 (Act 53 of 1961), the Government is pleased to make after previous publication as required by subsection (1) of the said section, the following rules, namely :

WEST BENGAL MATERNITY BENEFIT RULES, 1965

 Short title and commencement.—(1) These rules may be called the West Bengal Maternity Benefit Rules, 1965.

(2) They shall come into force on the 15th day of August 1965.

- 2. Definitions .- In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,--
 - (a) "the Act" means of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, (Act 53 to 1961)
 :
 - (b) "Competent Authority" means-
 - the Labour Commissioner, West Bengal, for the purposes of section 12 (2) (b), 17 (3) and 17 (4) of the Act, and
 - (ii) the Chief Inspector of Factories, West Bengal, for the purposes of all other sections of the Act;
 - (c) "form" means a form appended to these rules;
 - (d) "muster roll" means a muster roll maintained under rule 3;
 - (e) "registered Medical Practitioner" means a medical practitioner whose name has been enrolled in a register maintained under any law for the time being in force regulating the registration of practitioners of medicine :
 - (f) "section" means a section of the Act;
 - (g) all other words and expressions used hereinafter but not defined therein shall have the same meaning as respectively assigned to them in the Act.
- Muster Roll.—(1) The employer of every establishment in which women are employed shall prepare and maintain a muster roll in form "A" and shall enter therein particulars of all women workers in the establishment.

(2) All entries in the muster roll shall be made in ink and maintained up to date and it shall always be available for inspection by the Inspector during working hours.

(3) The employer may enter in the muster roll such other particulars as may be required for any other purpose of the Act.

4. Proof. (1) The fact that a woman in pregnant or has been delivered of a child or has undergone miscarriage or is suffering from illness arising out of pregnancy, delivery, premature birth of child or miscarriage shall be proved by the production of a certificate to that effect from—

(a) a Medical Officer of a hospital; or

(b) a registered Medical Practitioner.

The certificate shall be in form B.

(2) The fact that a woman has been confined may also be proved by the production of a certified extract from a birth register maintained under the provisions of any law for the time being in force or a certificate signed by a registered midwife.

(3) The fact that a woman has undergone miscarriage may also be proved by the production of a certificate signed by a registered midwife.

(4) The fact of death of a woman or a child may be proved by the production of a certificate to that effect in from any of the authorities referred to in subrule(1) or by the production of a certified extract from a death register maintained under the time being in force.

(5) The certificate from a registered midwife shall be in form D.

5. Payment of maternity and other benefit.—(1) A woman employed in any establishment and entitled to maternity benefit shall give notice to her employer in form E and the employer shall make payment of the maternity benefit and any other amount due under the Act to the woman concerned, or, in case of her death before such maternity benefit or amount, or where the employer is liable for maternity benefit under the second provise to sub-section (3) of section 5, to the person nominated by the woman in her notice in form E and in case there is no such nominee, to her legal representative.

(2) In case of doubt, the maternity benefit or other amount due to a woman employed in an establishment shall be deposited by the employer, within two months of the date of death of the woman concerned with the Competent Authority, who shall, after making necessary enquiries, pay it to the person who, in his opinion, is entitled to receive it.

(3) Whenever the payment referred to in sub-rule(1) is made a receipt shall be obtained by the employer in form E from the person to whom the payment is made. In cases falling under sub-rule(2) a receipt shall be given to the employer by the Competent Authority.

(4) The medical bonus shall be paid along with the second instalment of the maternity benefit.

(5) The maternity benefit or any other amount payable under section 7 shall be paid within two months of the date of death of the woman entitled to receive such benefit or amount.

(6) The wages payable under section 9 shall be paid to the woman entitled to receive such wages within forty-eight hours of production by her of the certificate in form B or form D.

(7) The wages payable under section 10 shall be paid to the woman entitled to receive such wages forty-eight hours of the expiry of the period of leave referred to in that section.

6. Break for nursing child.—Each of the two breaks mentioned in section 11 shall be of fifteen minutes'. An extra sufficient period depending upon the distance to be covered, shall be allowed for the purpose of journey to and from the creche or the place where the children are left by women while on duty, provided that such extra period shall not be of less than five minutes and more than fifteen minutes' duration. If any dispute arises regarding such extra period, the matter shall be referred to the Competent Authority for decision.

Duties and powers of the Competent Authority and Inspectors.—

 The Competent Authority shall be responsible for the administration of these rules.

(2) Every Inspector shall discharge his duties within the area assigned to him by the State Government and shall act under the supervision and control of the Competent Authority.

- (3) Every Inspector shall at each inspection of any establishment see—
 - (a) Whether due action has been taken on every notice given under section 6;
 - (b) whether the muster roll prescribed under rule 3 is correctly maintained;
 - (c) whether there have been any cases of discharge or dismissal or notices of discharges or dismissal in contravention of the provisions of section 12 since the last inspection;
 - (d) Whether the provisions of sub-section(1) of section 4; sub-section (5) and (6) of section 6, sections 9, 10, 11, 13 and 19 have been complied with and whether amounts due have been paid within the prescribed time;
 - (e) whether there have been any cases of deprival of maternity benefit or medical bonus in contravention of sub-section(2) of section 12; and
 - (f) how far the irregularities pointed out at previous inspections have been remedied and how far orders previously issued have been complied with.

(4) Where an inspector observes irregularities against the Act or these Rules, he shall issue orders in writing to the employer asking the latter to rectify the irregularities within a specified period and to report compliance to the Inspector.

 Acts which constitute gross misconduct.—The following acts shall constitute gross misconduct for the purpose of section 12, namely :

(a) wilful destruction of employer's goods or property;

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- (b) assaulting any superior or co-employee at any place within the establishment;
- (c) criminal offence involving moral turpitude resulting in conviction in a court of law;
- (d) theft, fraud or dishonesty in connection with the employer's business or property; and
- (e) wilful non-observance of safety measures or rules on the subject or wiful interference with safety devices of with fire fighting equipment;

 Appeal under section 12.—(1) An appeal under clause (b) of sub-section(2) of section 12 shall be preferred to the Labour Commissioner in Form G.

(2) The appeal may be made in writing and either handed over personally or sent under a registered cover to the Labour Commissioner.

(3) When an appeal is received, the Labour Commissioner shall furnish a copy of the memorandum of appeal to the employer, call for his reply thereto and also ask him to produce documents connected with the issue of the appeal by a fixed date. The Labour Commissioner may ascertain further details if necessary, from the employer as well as from the woman. On considering the facts presented to him and ascertained by him the Labour Commissioner shall give his decision. In case the employer fails to submit his replay or produce the required documents within the specified period, the Labour Commissioner may give his decision exparte.

 Complaint under section 17.—(1) A complaint under section 17.— (1) A complaint under of section 17 shall be made in writing in Form H of Form I, as case may be.

(2) When a complaint referred to in section 17 is received by an Inspector, he shall examine the relevant records maintained by the employer in this behalf, examine any person employed in the establishment and take down necessary statement for the purpose of the enquiry and if he is satisfied that the maternity benefit or the amount has been improperly with held, he shall direct the employer to make the payment to the woman or to the person claiming the payment under section 7, as the case may be, immediately or within a specified period.

 Appeal under section 17.—(1) An appeal against the decision of the Inspector under sub-section (2) of Section 17, shall lie to the Labour Commissioner.

(2) The aggrieved person shall prefer an appeal in writing to the Labour Commissioner in Form J and file other supporting documents.

(3) When an appeal is received the Labour Commissioner shall call from the Inspector, before a fixed date, the record of the case. The Labour Commissioner shall call from the Inspector, before a statement of the aggrieved person and of the Inspector and seek clarification if any is required.

(4) Taking into account the documents, the evidence produced before him and the facts presented to him or ascertained by him, the Labour Commissioner shall give his decision.

12. Supply of forms, — The employer shall supply to every woman employed by him at her request free of cost copies of forms B, C, D, E, F, G, H and I.

13. Non-submission of notices, appeals or complaints in the prescribed forms.—Nothing in rules 5, 9 and 10 affect the right of a woman entitled to receive maternity benefit or any other amount due under the Act if the fails to submit a notice, appeal or complaint under the rules, as the case may be, in a prescribed form;

Provided that where a notice, appeal for complaint under the said rules has been submitted by a woman entitled to receive maternity benefit or any other amount under the Act in a form, other than the prescribed form, the authority concerned may, within fifteen days on the receipt of such notice appeal or complaint require the woman to submit the notice, appeal /complaint as the case may be, in the prescribed form.

 Records.—Records kept under the provisions of the Act and these rules shall be preserved for a period of two years from the date of their preparation.

15. Abstract.—The abstract of the provisions of the Act and these rules required to be exhibited under section 19 shall be in form K and shall be exhibited in such manner as the Competent Authority may require.

16. Annual returns.—(1) The employer of every establishment shall on or before the twenty-first day of January in each year submit to the Competent Authority of if the latter so directs, to the Inspector within whose jurisdiction the establishment is situated, a return in each of the Forms L, M, and N giving information as to the particulars specified in respect of the preceding year.

(2) If the employer of any establishment to which the Act applied sells, abandons or discontinues the working of the establishment, he shall, within one month of the date of sale or abandonment or four months of the date of discontinuance, as the case may be, submit to the Competent Authority or if the latter so directs, to the Inspector within whose jurisdiction the establishment is situated a further return in each of the said Forms in respect of the period between the end of the preceding year and the date of sale, abandonment on discontinuance.

FORM-A

[See rule 3]

Muster Roll

Name of the Establishment

- 1. Serial Number.
- 2. Name of woman and her father's (or if married, husband's) name.
- 3. Date of appointment.
- 4. Nature of work.
- Dates with month and year in which she is employed, laid off and not employed.

Month	Number of days employed	Number of days laid off	Number of days not employed	Remarks

Date of which the woman gives notice under section 6.

7. Date of discharge/dismissal, if any.

Date of production of proof of pregnancy under section 6.

9. Date of birth of child.

10. Date of production of proof of delivery/miscarriage/death.

11. Date of production of proof of illness referred to in section 10.

12. Date with the amount of maternity benefit paid in advance of expected delivery.

13. Date with the amount of subsequent payment of maternity benefit.

14. Date with the amount of bonus, if paid under section 8.

15. Date with the amount of wages paid on account of leave under section 9.

 Date with the amount of wages paid on account of leave under section 10 and period of leave granted.

17. Name of the person nominated by the woman under section 6.

- If the woman dies, the date of her death, the name of the person to whom maternity benefit and/or other amount was paid, the amount thereof, and the date of payment.
- 19. If the woman dies and the child survives, the name of the person to whom the amount of maternity benefit was paid on behalf of the child and the period for which it was paid.
- Signature of the employer of the establishment authenticating the entries in the muster roll.

21. Remarks column for the use of the Inspector.

FORM-B

[See rule (4)]

This is to certify that I examinedwife	/daughter
of a woman employee in	
(name of establishment) on (date) an	d found/
cannot discover that she is pregnant and is expected to be delivered within	of a child from the
abovementioned date/has undergone miscarriage/has been delivered	of a child
on (date) or is suffering from	(date)
from illness arising out of pregnancy/delivery/premature birth of a miscarriage.	child or

Date :

Signature, qualifications and designation of Medical Officer/ Medical Practitioner

Definitions of "child" and "miscarriage" as in the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961-

 "Child" includes a still-born child. at any period prior to or during the twenty-sixty week of pregnancy but does not include any miscarriage the causing of which is punishable under the Indian Penal Code.

FORM-C

[See rule 4 (4)]

This is to certify that Shrimati wife	/dauther of
employed in	(name of
establishment) expired on before/during/after co	nfinement.
The child died on/survives her.	

Date :

Signature, qualifications and designation of Medical Officer/ Medical Practititoner

FORM-D

[See rule (5)]

This is to certify that I examined wife/daughter of

Date

Signature of registered mid-wife

Definitions of said and "miscarriaged" as in the

- 1. "Child" includes a still-born child.
- "Miscarriage" means expulsion of the contents of a pregnant uterus at any period prior to or during the twenty-sixth week of pregnancy but does not include any miscarriage, the causing of which is punishable under the Indian Penal Code.

FORM-E

[See rule (5)]

Notice under Section 6 of the Maternity Benefit Rules, 1965 (Name of establishment)

Date

Signature or thumb impression of woman

Signature of an Attestor in case the woman is not able to sign and affixes thumb impression.

FORM-F

[See rule 5(3)]

Form of receipt of Maternity Benefit

a woman employee/
employee
ter amount ablishment
er delivery
10.

*My/Her confinement/miscarriage took place on or I/ She fell ill because of pregnancy, delivery, premature birth of a chilld or miscarriage on In consequence I her nominee/legal representative have received the aforasaid amounts prescribed in sections 5, 8, 9 and 10 of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961.

Signature or thumb impression of woman employee or her nominee or legal representative.

Te

Signature of an attestor in case the woman is not able to sign and affixes thumb impression.

Date

* Strike out unnecessary portion.

FORM-G [See rule (9)]

To

The Labour Commissioner, West Bengal

Sir,

I,, the undersigned woman employee of wrongly deprieved by the employer of maternity benefit or medical bonus or both (strike out unnecessary portion) for the reasons attached hereto, prefer this appeal under sub-section(2) of section 12 and quest that the said employer be ordered to pay the abovementioned amount to me. A copy of the order of the employer in this behalf is enclosed.

Date.....

Signature or thumb impression of the woman

Signature of an Attestor in case the woman is not able to sign and affixes thumb impression

FORM-H [See rule (10)]

To

The Inspector,

(under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961.)

Sir,

Date.....

Signature or thumb impression of the woman

Signature of an Attestor in case the woman is not able to sign and affixes thumb impression

* Strike out unnecessary portion.

FORM-I

[See rule (10)]

To

The Inspector,

(Under the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961)

Sir,

Date.....

Signature or thumb impression of the nominee/legal representative

Signature of an attestor in case the nominee/legal representative is unable to sign and affixes thumb impression.

> Full address of the nominee/ legal representative.

FORM-J

[See rule (11)]

То

The Labour Commissioner West Bengal

Sir,

Date.....

Signature of aggrieved person Full address

FORM-K

[See rule (15)]

Abstract of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, and the rules made thereunder.

 No employer shall knowingly employ a woman during the six weeks immediately following the day of her delivery or miscarriage and no woman shall work in any establishment during the said period.

2. No Pregnant woman shall, on a request being made by her in this behalf, be required by her employer to do during the period of one month immediately preceding the period of six weeks before the date of her expected delivery and also for any period during this period of six weeks for which she does not avail of leave of absence any work which is of arduous nature or which involves long hours of standing, or which in any way is likely to interfere with her pregnancy or the normal development of the feotus, or is likely to cause her miscarriage of otherwise adversely affect her health.

3. Subject to the provision of the Act, every woman who has actually worked in an establishment of the employer from whom she claims maternity benefit for a period of not less than one hundred and sixty days including the days during which she was laid off shall be entitled to, and her employer shall be liable for, the payment of maternity benefit at the rate of her average daily wages, or one rupee a day, whichever is higher, for the period of her actual absence not exceeding six weeks immediately preceding and including the day of her delivery and for the six weeks immediately following that day :

Provided that where a woman dies during the period for which maternity benefit is payable to her, the benefit shall be payable only for the days up to and including the day of her death. However, where for the woman having been delivered of a child, dies during her delivery or during the period of six weeks immediately following the date of her delivery, leaving behind in either case the child, the employer shall be liable for the payment of maternity benefit for the entire period of six weeks immediately following the day of her delivery but if the child also dies during the said period, then, for the days up to and including the day of the death of the child.

(2) The amount of maternity benefit for the period preceding the date of her expected delivery shall be paid in advance by the employer to the woman on production of a certificate in Form B stating that she is pregnant and is expected to be delivered of a child within six weeks of the date of production of the certificate and the amount due for the subsequent period shall be paid by the employer to the woman within forty-eight hours of production of the certificate in Form B or Form D starting that she has been delivered of a child or production of a certified extract from a Birth Register maintained under the provisions of any law for the time being in force.

(4) (1) Any woman employed in an establishment and entitled to maternity benefit under the provisions of this Act may give notice in writing in Form E,

to her employer, stating that her maternity benefit and any other amount to which she may be entitled under this Act may be paid to her or to such person as she may nominate in the notice and that she will not work in any establishment during the period for which she receives maternity benefit.

(2) In the case of a woman who is pregnant, such notice shall state the date from which she will be absent from work, not being a date earlier than six weeks from the date of her expected delivery.

(3) Any woman who has not given the notice when she was pregnant may give such notice as soon as possible after the delivery.

(4) On receipt of the notice, the employer shall permit such woman to absent herself from the establishment until the expiry of six weeks after the day of her delivery.

5. (1) Every woman entitled to maternity benefit under the Act shall also be entitled to receive from her employer a medical bonus of twenty-five rupees, if no pre-natal, confinement and post-matal care is provided for by the employer free of charge. The medical bonus shall be paid along with the second instalment of the maternity benefit.

(2) In case of miscarriage, a woman shall, on production of a certificate in Form B or Form D be entitled to leave with wages at the rate of maternity benefit, for a period of six weeks immediately following the day of her miscarriage. The wages shall be paid within forty-eight hours of production of the certificate in Form B or Form D.

(3) A woman suffering from illness arising out of pregnancy, delivery, premature birth of child or miscarriage shall, on production of a certificate in Form B, be entitled, in addition to the period of absence allowed to her on account of maternity or miscarriage, as the case may be, to leave with wages at the rate of maternity benefit for a maximum period of one month. The wages for the leave period shall be paid within forty-eight hours of the expiry of that period.
6. Every woman delivered of a child who returns to duty after such delivery shall, in addition to the interval for rest allowed to her, be allowed in the course of her daily work two breaks of fifteen minutes' duration for nursing the child until the child attains the age of fifteen months. An extra sufficient period, depending upon the distance to be covered, shall be allowed for the purpose of the journey to and from the creche or the place where the children are left by woman while on duty, provided that such extra period shall not be less than five minutes' and more than fifteen minutes' duration.

7. (1) When a woman absents herself from work in accordance with the provisions of the Act, it shall be unlawful for her employer to discharge or dismiss her during or on account of such absence or to give notice of discharge or dismissal on such a day that the notice will expire during such absence, or to vary to her disadvantage any of the conditions of her service.

(2) (a) The discharge or dismissal of a woman at any time during her pregnancy, if the woman but for such discharge or dismissal would have been entitled to maternity benefit or medical bonus, shall not have the effect of depriving her of the maternity benefit or medical bonus :

Provided that where the dismissal is for one or more of the following acts, the employer may, by order in writing communicated to the woman, deprive her of the maternity benefit or medical bonus or both :

- (i) wilful destruction of employer's goods or property :
- (ii) assaulting any superior or co-employee at any place within the establishment:
- (iii) criminal offence involving moral turpitude resulting in conviction in a court of law :
- (iv) theft fraud, or dishonesty in connection with the employer's business or property; and
- (v) wilful non-observance of safety measures or rules on the subject or wilful interference with safety devices or with fire-fighting equipment.
- (b) Any woman deprived of maternity benefit or medical bonus or both, may, within sixty days from the date of which the order of such deprivation is communicated to her, appeal in form G to the Labour Commissioner, West Bengal, and his decision on such appeal whether the woman should or should not be deprived of maternity benefit or medical bonus or both, shall be final.
- If a woman works in any establishment after she has been permitted by her employer to absent herself under the provisions of the Act, she shall forfeit her claim to the maternity benefit for such period.

9. (1) Any woman claiming that maternity benefit or any other amount to which she is entitled under the Act and any person claiming that payment due has been improperly withheld may make a complaint to the Inspector in writing in Form H or I, as the case may be.

(2) The Inspector may, of his own motion or on receipt of a complaint in Form H or Form I make an enquiry or cause an enquiry to be made and if satisfied that payment has been wrongfully withheld, may direct the payment to be made in accordance with his orders.

(3) Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Inspector may, with in thirty days from the date on which such decision is communicated to such person, appeal to the Labour Commissioner, West Bengal.

(4) The decision of the Labour Commissioner, West Bengal, where an appeal has been preferred to him or of the Inspector where no such appeal has been preferred, shall be final.

FORM-L

[See rule (16)]

Annual Return for the Year ending on the 31st December, 19..

- 1. Name of the Establishment:
- 2. Address of the Establishment: P.O. District.
- 3. Date of opening of the Establishment:
- Date of closing, if closed:
- 5. Postal address of the Establishment:
- Names of Employers:

Postal addresses of the employers:

- Name of the Managing Agent, if any: Postal address of the managing agent:
- 8. Name of Agent or representative of employer: Postal Address-
- Name of Manager Postal Address-
- 10. (a) Name of the medical officer, if any, attached to the establishment
 - (b) Qualification of medical officer attached to the establishment
 - (c) Is he resident at the establishment?
 - (d) If a part-time employee, how often does he pay visits to the establishment? 11. (a)
- 11. Is there any hospital attached to the factory/plantation/establishment:
 - (b) If so, how many beds are provided for women employees?
 - (c) Is there a lady doctor?
 - (d) If so, what are her qualifications?
 - (c) Is there a qualified midwife?
 - (f) Has any creche been provided?

FORM-M

[See rule (16)]

Employment, dismissal, payment of bonus, etc., of women for the year ending on 31st December, 19.....

- 1. Establishment.
- Aggregate number of women permanently or temporarily employed during the year.
- Number of women who worked for a period of not less than one hundred and sixty days in the twelve months immediately preceding the date of delivery.
- 4. Number of women who gave notice under section 6.
- Number of women who were granted permission to absent on receipt of notice of confinement.
- 6. Number of claims for maternity benefit paid.
- 7. Number of claims for maternity benefit rejected.
- Number of cases where pre-natal, confinement and post-natal care was provided by the management free of charge (section 8).
- 9. Number of claims for medical bonus paid (section 8).
- 10. Number of claims for medical bonus rejected.
- Number of cases in which leave for miscarriage was granted.
- Number of cases in which leave for miscarriage was applied for but was rejected.
- Number of cases in which additional leave for illness under section 10 was granted.
- Number of cases in which additional leave for illness under section 10 was applied for but was rejected.
- 15. Number of women who died-
 - (a) before delivery
 - (b) after delivery
- Number of cases in which payment was made to persons other than the women concerned.
- 17. Number of women discharged or dismissed while working.
- Number of women deprived of maternity benefit and/or medical bonus under provisions to sub-section (2) section 12.
- Number of cases in which payment was made on the order of the competent Authority or Inspector.
- 20. Remarks.
- N:B : Full particulars of each case and reasons for the action taken under serials 7, 10, 12, 14, 17 and 18 should be given in the Appendix below :

Signature of the employer Date

FORM-N

[See rule (16)]

Details of payment made during the year ending 31st December, 19.....

Name of person to whom paid

Amount paid

- 1. Date of payment
- 2. Woman employee
- 3. Nominee of the woman
- 4. Legal representative of the woman
- 5. Amount for the period preceding date of expected delivery.
- 6. Amount for the subsequent period.
- 7. Under Section 8
- 8. Under Section 9
- 9. Under Section 10
- Number of women workers who absconded after receiving the first instalment of maternity benefit.
- 11. Cases where claims were contested in a court of law.
- 12. Results of such cases
- 13. Remarks

Signature of the employer, Date

By order of the Governor, S. M. Bhattacharji, Secy. to the Govt. of West Bengal