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GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

ABSTRACT

Social Welfare - Scheme of Savings for Welfare - Constitution of Distress Relief Fund for the handicapped - Sanction accorded - Orders issued -

SOCIAL WELFARE (A) DEPARTMENT

G.O. (Ms)4/95/SWD.

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram: 24.1.1995

ORDER

Government are pleased to constitute the 'Distress Relief Fund for the Handicapped Persons' by setting apart an amount of Rs.1 crore out of the provision made under the scheme 'Savings for Welfare', for the purpose of providing distress relief to the handicapped persons in the following cases:-

- (a) for medical treatment including operations.
- (b) to persons who became handicapped due to accidents
- (c) for any other purpose which are not covered by existing schemes for handicapped.

(2) The corpus of the 'Distress Relief Fund' will be Rs.1 crore and is chargeable to the Consolidated Fund of the State.

(3) The corpus of the Fund will be deposited as fixed deposit in the District Treasury, Thiruvananthapuram. A Treasury Savings Bank account with a deposit of Rs. One lakh will also be opened in the same Treasury in the name of Secretary to Government, Social Welfare and Director of Social Welfare.

(4) The rules appended to this order regarding administration of the 'Distress Relief Fund' are also approved for the purpose.

By Order of the Governor,

C.P. Nair,
Commissioner & Secretary.

To

The Secretary to Govt., Finance Department,
The Director of Social Welfare. etc. etc.

Forwarded / By Order

Sd/-
Section Officer.

RULES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRESS RELIEF FUND

Name of the Fund

1. The Fund may be known by the name "SOCIAL WELFARE MINIS-DISTRESS RELIEF FUND FOR THE HANDICAPPED"

2. Definition: For the purpose of the Rule, the terms, 'Physically Handicapped Person' shall include the following 4 categories falling within the range of definitions in respect of each category given as under:-

Blind: means a person who suffers from any one or more of the following defects namely

- a) total absence of eye sight
- b) visual acuity not exceeding 6/60 or 20/200 (snellen) in the better eye with correcting lenses
- c) limitation of the field of vision subtending an angle of 20 degree or worse.

Deaf: means a person whose sense of hearing is non-functional for ordinary purpose of life who does not hear or understand sound at all and who has hearing loss more than 70 decibels in the better ear or total loss of hearing in both ears.

Mentally Retarded: means mentally retarded persons whose ~~intelligence~~ intelligence coefficient is less than 75 scale.

Orthopaedically Handicapped: means a person who is having disability not less than 40% as per the Mc. Bride scale.

Annual Income: means income as per the certificate obtained from the Village Officer/Tahsildar.

3. Object of the Fund: Fund is constituted for the purpose of giving relief to the handicapped persons in the following cases.

- a) for medical treatment including operations.
- b) to persons who become handicapped due to accident
- c) for any other purpose which are not covered by existing schemes for handicapped.

4. Constitution of the Fund

Besides a sum of Rupees one crore set apart from out of the provision made for the "welfare of the handicapped persons". Contributions and donations from Voluntary Welfare Agencies, Public/Private Sector Undertakings, Philanthropists, NRI's etc. and the amount of interest accrued out of the

amount deposited for the purpose in the Treasury account shall constitute the "Distress Relief Fund for the Handicapped Persons". The Treasurer will issue formal receipt for donations/contributions received to the fund.

5. Investment of the Fund:

The Relief Fund for the Physically Handicapped Persons shall be deposited in the District Treasury, Thiruvananthapuram as 'Fixed Deposit' by name "Distress Relief Fund for the Handicapped Persons" in the name of the Secretary to Government in charge of Social Welfare. A TSB account for Rs. One Lakh shall also be opened and operated in the same Treasury jointly by the Secretary to Government, Social Welfare Department and Director of Social Welfare (Member Secretary and Treasurer respectively) and the monthly interest on the "Fixed Deposit" shall be credited to the T.S.B. account on the 1st of the succeeding month by the District Treasury Officer. Donations and contributions so received to the Fund shall also be credited to the Treasury Savings Bank account. No amount from the fixed deposit shall be withdrawn without the sanction of the Government.

6. Audit of Accounts:

The accounts of the Fund shall be subjected to Audit by the Accountant General.

7. General Committee:

The Committee for the administration of the Fund shall consist of the following members:

1. Minister in charge of Social Welfare : Chairman
2. Chief Secretary to Govt. : Vice Chairman
3. Secretary in charge of Social Welfare : Member Secretary and Convenor
4. Secretary, Finance : Member
5. Chairman, KSHPWC : Member
6. Director of Social Welfare : Member and Treasurer

8. Convenor:

The Secretary to Government in charge of Social Welfare shall be the Convenor of the Committee and the Committee shall meet as often as necessary but at least once every year in the month of June.

9. Quorum:

The Quorum of the Committee shall be three.

10. Procedure:

Applications for relief for the purpose specified in para 3 may be received by the Chairman either directly or through the District Social Welfare Officers. The Chairman has absolute descretion in taking decisions on the applications. The District Social Welfare Officers shall forward the applications received by them to the Secretary to Govt., Social Welfare Department in the Secretariat with recommendations duly certifying the eligibility after personal enquiry in the individual cases with copy to the Director of Social Welfare. The applications so received by the Secretary to Govt. may be put up to the Chairman for sanction. In very urgent and exceptional cases and in the absence of Chairman, financial assistance shall be sanctioned by the Member-Secretary by circulating the application to the Vice Chairman. As soon as the sanction is received, the Secretary to Government, Social Welfare Department shall issue an order sanctioning the assistance and will be sent to the Director of Social Welfare (Treasurer) who shall make arrangements to pay the assistance to the applicant as expeditiously as possible.

10. Limits:

The maximum amount of relief shall be fixed as Rs.2000/- (Rupees Two thousand only) in a case in a financial year. The total amount that can be sanctioned should not exceed the interest generated by the fund and the donations etc. received in that year. But in very exceptional cases, the limit can be extended upto to Rs. 5000/- in a case.

12. Eligibility:

Those handicapped persons whose annual income does not exceed Rs. 12,000/- shall be eligible for financial assistance.

13. Annual Accounts:

The Treasurer shall prepare and place before the Committee in June every year an annual report of the administration of the Fund relating to receipts and disbursements out of the Fund during the previous financial year.

14. Right to make amendments:

Government reserve the right to make amendments to the above Rules.

Financial Memorandum

The Corpus of the Distress or Relief Fund i.e. Rs. 1 crore will be charged to the consolidated Fund of the State.