

Government of West Bengal

Finance Department

Audit Branch

No.3142-F(P2)

Howrah, the 13th June,2016

Sub : GRANT OF INTEREST FREE FESTIVAL ADVANCE TO STATE

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES FOR THE YEAR 2016

The undersigned is directed by order of the Governor to say that the Governor has been pleased to order that if a State Government employee whose revised emoluments on 31st March, 2016 exceeded Rs.25,000/- per month but did not exceed Rs. 36,000/- per month applies for Interest-free festival advance, he may be granted an advance up to a maximum of Rs.4000/- only.

The authorities competent to sanction the interest-free festival advance are those mentioned in rule 320 of the West Bengal Financial Rules, Volume-I.

2. The undersigned is further directed to say that the benefit of interest-free festival advance may also be allowed to (a) the whole time piece-rate workers, either permanent or temporary and (b) the employees belonging to work charged/contingent establishments. Such employees drawing revised emoluments exceeding Rs. 25,000/- per month but not exceeding Rs. 36,000/- per month on 31st March, 2016 may be allowed to draw the interest-free festival advance up to a maximum of Rs. 4,000/- only if they apply for the same.

3. In case of the employees falling under Para 2 above, the authority sanctioning the advance shall certify after being satisfied that the employees are likely to continue in service until the recovery is completed.

4. The advance will be recovered from the salary of the Government employees/ workers as above concerned in not more than 10 monthly instalments. If the amount of advance is exactly divisible by ten, it will be recovered in the equal monthly instalments. If not, the figure obtained by dividing the amount by ten should be rounded off to the nearest rupee which will be the amount of each of the first nine monthly instalments, and the balance will be recovered in the tenth monthly instalment. The same method of calculation will apply mutatis-mutandis where the advance will be repaid in less than ten instalments. The recovery of the advance sanctioned under this order will begin either from the salary for the month of November, 2016 or from the salary for the month following the month in which the advance is drawn, whichever is earlier. However, recovery in all cases should be completed by 31st August, 2017 at the latest.

5. The State Government employees who will retire/leave Government service on a date after the issue of this order but before 1st November,2016 will not be allowed any festival advance. However, an employee who will retire after 1st November,2016 will be eligible for interest free festival advance sanctioned in this order subject to the condition that the recovery should be completed on or before the month of his superannuation.

6. (a) Persons who will enter into State Government Service for the first time after 31st March,2016 but before 1st October,2016 will be entitled to the benefit of interest free festival advance as sanctioned in this order subject to fulfilment of the terms and conditions laid down and their emoluments for the purpose of payment of advance will be determined on the basis of their emoluments at the time of entry into Government service.

(b) The benefit of interest-free festival advance sanctioned above will also be admissible to the State Government employees who have been appointed on regular or contract basis provided they are not eligible to draw ad-hoc bonus on pro-rata basis sanctioned for accounting year 2015-2016 and provided their regular or contract emoluments did not exceed Rs. 36,000/- per month.

7. The benefit of interest-free festival advance sanctioned above will also be admissible to the personal staff of Chief Minister, Ministers and Minister of State as well as to the Personal staff attached to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly on the same terms and conditions as laid down above provided they are not eligible to draw ad-hoc bonus for the accounting year 2015-2016.

8. The benefit of interest-free festival advance will also be admissible to the personal staff of the Leader of the Opposition of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly provided they are not sanctioned ad-hoc bonus for the accounting year 2015-2016.

9. The benefit of interest-free festival advance will also be admissible to the regular teaching and non-teaching staff of the educational institutions and regular employees of Panchayat & Local bodies.

10. Central Government Employees on deputation to the State Government may be granted festival advance as may be sanctioned by the Government of India for Central Government Employees subject to the terms and conditions as may be laid down by the Government of India in this regard.

11. For the purpose of this order, member of All India Services serving in connection with the affairs of the State will be regarded as State Government employees.

12. For the employees who are drawing pay in the revised scale, the terms 'emoluments' will mean basic pay (i.e pay in the pay band plus grade pay), dearness allowance and non-practicing allowance, if any,

13. The terms 'emoluments' in the case of employees drawing pay and allowances in the un-revised scale, will include basic pay, personal pay, special pay, specialist pay, dearness pay, dearness allowance, deputation (duty) allowance and special allowance (Additional remuneration).

In case of retired Government employees on re-employment, the term 'emoluments' will mean remuneration drawn by them in terms of Finance Department Memo. No. 3951-F dated 27-05-2009 plus basic pension.

14. Application for interest-free festival advance on the strength of this order by all employees shall be made as early as possible.

DISBURSEMENT OF INTEREST-FREE FESTIVAL ADVANCE (WHEREVER APPLIED FOR) ON THE STRENGTH OF THIS ORDER SHOULD BE MADE IN CASE OF MUSLIM EMPLOYEES BY 30th JUNE,2016 AND IN CASE OF PAYMENT TO OTHER EMPLOYEES (OTHER THAN MUSLIM EMPLOYEES) SHOULD BE MADE IN BETWEEN 21ST SEPTEMBER ,2016 TO 29TH SEPTEMBER,2016.

In case of failure, such disbursement should be completed before 1st December, 2016 in case of all employees at the latest. The Drawing and Disbursing Officers in order to minimize the number of bills should as far as possible, prepare one bill for advance in such cases in respect of the establishment/office for which they act as Drawing and Disbursing Officers.

15. The advance excluding the advance to the employees borne on work-charged establishment will be debited to the standard detailed head 'Salaries-Pay' under all major, minor and sub-heads in the budget grant available for the financial year 2016-2017 the recoveries thereof being automatically adjusted by monthly deduction of instalments of advance paid to an employee from his pay. No new detailed head is required to be opened for this purpose as per new classification in accounts. The advance to persons borne on work-charged establishments will be debited to the same head from which their wage is met.

Sd/- A.K.Das

**O.S.D. & E.O. Joint Secretary to
the Government of West Bengal
Finance Department**

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to :-

01. The Accountant General (A&E), West Bengal, Treasury Buildings, Kolkata - 700 001.
02. The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, West Bengal, New India Assurance Buildings, 4, Lyons Range, Kolkata - 700 001.
03. The Pay & Accounts Officer, Kolkata Pay & Accounts Office-I, 81/2/2, Phears Lane, Kolkata - 700 012.
04. The Pay & Accounts Officer, Kolkata Pay & Accounts Office-II, P-1, Hyde Lane, Jawahar Buildings, Kolkata - 700 073.
05. The Pay & Accounts Officer, Kolkata Pay & Accounts Office-III, I.B. Markat, Sector - III, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700 091.
06. The Assistant Secretary & D.D.O., Finance Department, Nabanna. Howrah.
07. The Assistant Secretary & D.D.O., Finance Department, BikashBhawan, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 91.
08. The District Magistrate/Judge,
09. The Sub-Divisional Officer,
10. The Treasury Officer,
11. The , Department/Directorate.
12. The Commissioner,
13. The Principal, Industrial Training Institute,
14. The Superintendent of Police,
15. The Superintending Engineer/Ex. Engineer,
16. **The Secretary, (Group N) of F.D**
17. Sri Sumit Mitra, Network Administrator, Finance Department, for uploading in the Finance Department Website.

QA 13/6/16
O.S.D & E.O Joint Secretary to the
Government of West Bengal
Finance Department