

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
FINANCE DEPARTMENT
AUDIT BRANCH**

No. 6784-F

Kolkata, 18th July, 2001

MEMORANDUM

The undersigned is directed to state that under the existing orders of the Government the State Service Officers drawing pay of Rs. 10,000/- and above and All India Service Officers irrespective of pay drawn by them while posted in the North Bengal Districts except Malda, may be permitted to travel by air on tour from the Districts of Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Cooch-Bihar and Dinajpur to Kolkata and back subject to the existing terms and conditions. Such officers posted at Kolkata may also perform air journey to the aforesaid districts of North Bengal with the approval of the Departmental Secretaries. Again the officers in receipt of pay between Rs. 8000/- and Rs. 16,400/- are entitled to travel in A.C. Second Class 11-tier Sleeper when performing journey on tour by rail.

In the wake of steady rise in air fares, the railway fare for A.C. 1st Class from the aforesaid North Bengal Districts to Kolkata have now become cheaper than the corresponding air-fare. It has also been reported to the Government that officers are often called to Kolkata on official duty on a very short notice and most of the time they have to avail the air journey as it becomes difficult to get confirmed-ticket in the trains in the entitled class. But accommodation in trains are usually available in AC-1st Class. While a train is available daily, flights from North Bengal districts are not regularly available. It has been pointed out that the hardship may often faced by the officers of the North Bengal Districts to come to Kolkata on official tour on short notice may be overcome if these officers who are normally permitted to undertake air-journey to Kolkata are also allowed to undertake journey by AC-1st Class which is cheaper also compared to the air-fare as already stated.

2) After careful consideration of the matter from economy point of view, as also for smooth performance of official duties, the undersigned is directed by order of the Governor to say that the officers who are entitled to travel by air to and from the districts of Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Cooch-Bihar and Dinajpur to Kolkata and vice-versa under rule 53A of the WBSR-II read with para 2A(a) of the Annexure to Finance Deptt. Memo. No. 4730-F dt. 25-5-99 may be permitted to travel on tour in A.C. 1st Class by rail in exigency of public service provided the railway tickets in the entitled class of accommodation in respect of the concerned officers are not available on the date of journey.

3) Necessary amendment in the relevant rule will be made in due course.

Sd/-S. Mitra

Special Secretary to the
Government of West Bengal