

Government of West Bengal
Department of Higher Education
Technical Branch
Bikash Bhavan, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700 091

No. 326 - Edn(T)/10M-70/2012

Dated, Kolkata 14th June 2013.

Order

Whereas, the Higher Education Department, vide no. 272 - Edn (T) dated 1.7.2011, had notified the West Bengal Free-ship Scheme (WBFS) extending the benefit of full and half tuition fee waiver to meritorious students from economically weak backgrounds admitted into undergraduate level engineering and technology courses in the State. The said Scheme provides full tuition fee waiver to ten percent and half tuition fee waiver to another ten percent of the approved students admitted into each course in Government engineering colleges, engineering departments of State-aided universities and in those private / self-financing engineering and technology institutes which opt to admit students under the Management Quota;

And whereas, several complaints have been received from eligible students with regards to actual implementation of the Scheme in some of the private / self-financing engineering and technology institutes. Feedback has also been received from the West Bengal Joint Entrance Examinations Board (WBJEEB) and the West Bengal University of Technology that the Scheme is not being implemented optimally by the private / self-financing engineering and technology institutes, thus adversely affecting the interest of the Scheme's intended beneficiaries;

And whereas, to ensure that the intention of the Government of providing financial assistance to the meritorious students from economically weak backgrounds is faithfully translated into action, the Scheme's implementation has been reviewed in the Fee Structure Committee, and it has been found that the main weakness in ensuring actual implementation in private / self-financing engineering and technology institutes is its linkage to admissions under the management quota. The underlying principle has been that self-financing Engineering & Technology institutes may introduce a management quota of ten (10) percentage of approved intake of the institute and be allowed to charge a tuition fee up to three times of the normal fee with a corresponding obligation to provide the Free-ship Scheme to eligible students;

And whereas, this linkage of the free-ship to the management quota has been identified as a major reason due to which the full benefits of the Scheme are not reaching the intended beneficiaries. Several institutions, especially the ones located away from urban centres, have reported that they are not admitting students under the management quota, and hence claiming that they are not obliged to

provide free-ship to needy students. Others have reported cases where admissions under the management quota were taken but the students eventually left midway, and hence the institute's obligation to provide free-ship stood reduced. It is also seen that for the Academic Year 2013-14, several institutions have conveyed that they would not admit students under the management quota. Besides the above issues, monitoring the actual number of admissions under the management quota is cumbersome, time-consuming and hence, ineffective.

And whereas, to render the implementation of the Scheme more transparent, less opaque and easy to monitor, and to ensure the financial benefit actually reaches the eligible students from weak economic backgrounds, it has been decided that the linkage between the management quota and the free-ship scheme needs to be rationalised. Such a step will oblige the managements of the private / self-financing engineering and technology institutes to provide the free-ship benefits to eligible students irrespective of whether students have been admitted under the management quota. A linkage, instead, to the tuition fees chargeable by these institutes, as fixed by the Fee Structure Committee from time to time, would be a more sure way of ensuring that the Free-ship Scheme reaches a larger number of needy students.

And therefore, after a comprehensive review of the Scheme's implementation and in light of the considered recommendations of the Fee Structure Committee, the State Government has decided, in partial modification of the Order no.272-Edn (T) dated 01/07/2011, to revise the provisions of the West Bengal Free-ship Scheme (WBFS) in so far as they relate to private / self- financing engineering and technology institutes, as under:

(i) The private / self-financing engineering and technology institutes implementing the fees as revised by the Fee Structure Committee for 2013 – 2014, will provide half free-ship to 10% of the students admitted in each of Engineering / Pharmacy / Architecture courses in the academic session 2013-14 during the entire course period, subject to their satisfactory academic performance in the Institution.

(ii) Private / self-financing engineering and technology institutes shall continue to provide Full Tuition Fee Waiver (full free-ship) to 10% of the admitted student in proportion to the admissions made under the management quota category.

It is pertinent to re-iterate that the effective benefit under the various Tuition Fee Waiver Schemes in the State remains at twenty five percent of the total student strength comprising 5% under Tuition Fee Waiver (TFW), 10% Half free-ship under WBFS linked to the revised fee-structure and 10% Full free-ship linked to Management Quota (MQ) under WBFS.

The West Bengal University of Technology (WBUT) is entrusted with the implementation and monitoring of the Scheme and it shall provide to the State Government reports at periodic intervals. Furthermore, the 'income-certificate' of the eligible and/or admitted students after physical verification by the WBJEE Board shall be accepted by the respective institute. In case of any discrepancy found by the institute in the same, it should be informed to the Board with intimation to this Department through DTE, WB and WBUT.

Other provisions, including eligibility criteria, 'income-certifying authority' etc. of this Scheme as contained in Order no.272 Edn (T) dated 1st July, 2011; shall remain unchanged.

Sd/- Vivek Kumar
Secretary

No. 326 / 1(7) - Edn(T)/10M-70/2012

Dated, Kolkata 14th June 2013

Copy forwarded for information and taking necessary action to:

1. The Vice-Chancellor, West Bengal University of Technology – with request to communicate to all the affiliated institutions and ensure implementation of the Scheme before registration;
2. The Vice-Chancellor, Jadavpur University / Bengal Engineering & Sciences University / Kalyani University (for The Kalyani University Science Instrument Centre) / Burdwan University (for University Institution of Technology) – with request communicate to the affiliated institutions and ensure implementation of the Scheme vide Order no. 272-Edn(T) dated 01.07.2011;
3. The Director of Technical Education, West Bengal, Bikash Bhavan, 10th Floor, Kolkata – 91 – with request to inform all concerned and supervise the entire Scheme for its proper implementation;
4. The President, Association of Professional Academic Institutions, West Bengal, AE – 4, Sector – I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata – 700 064;
5. P.S. to MIC, Higher Education Department;
6. P.A. to Secretary, Higher Education Department;
7. Guard File.

Assistant Secretary