

Government of West Bengal
Department of School Education
Bikash Bhawan, 6th floor, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091

Dated June 26, 2020

Memo No. 217- SSE/20

From : Principal Secretary
School Education Department
Government of West Bengal

To : The Secretary
Department of School Education & Literacy
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Government of India, Shantri Bhawan, New Delhi

Subject : Regarding increase in the school fees and related matter during the lockdown Period.

Madam,

You are kindly aware that schools are closed since mid of March 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic. Our State Government has announced the closure of government/government-aided / government sponsored / private schools in the State till 31st July, 2020.

2. The COVID-19 crisis has resulted in the country going into an unprecedented nation-wide lockdown. The effects of the pandemic are being felt across all aspects of the economy and arguably the worst hit amongst them is the educational sector. We have been witnessing demonstrations from the guardians since beginning of April, 2020 about hike in school fees by the private schools, undue pressure for payment of the same in advance along with other related issues like waiver of transport fee, laboratory fee, services of same not availed by them during the lock-down period.

3. Taking cognizance of the same, the School Education Department of West Bengal Government approached to all private or non-aided schools in the State vide letter Nos.137-SSE/20, dated 10.04.2020 and 139-SSE/20, dated 22.04.2020, with a request to consider the matter sympathetically and not to hike the school fees or create pressure on the guardians to submit the same in advance. Copies of communications made, are enclosed with this letter for perusal.

4. As almost all the private schools under consideration of the subject matter, are either affiliated to CBSE or CISCE, the matter was taken up with the Chairman, CBSE and CEO, CISCE vide letter No.215-SSE/20, dt.18.06.2020 to deal with the same sympathetically. Copy of the said letter is also enclosed with this letter.


5. It is alleged that despite communications made by the State Government with private schools as stated above, some of the schools have not dealt the matter appropriately.

6. In view of above and considering the fact that almost all schools are either affiliated with CBSE or other Central Board, I would request you to kindly consider the matter so that the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. may issue an advisory to the concerned authorities to resolve the issues as stated above, at the earliest.

A line of reply in this regard would be appreciated.

Enclos : 1. Copy of letter No. 137-SSE/20, dt.10.04.2020,
2. Copy of letter No.139-SSE/20, dt.22.04.2020,
3. Copy of letter No. 215-SSE/20, dt.18.06.2020

Yours faithfully,


26/06/2020
(MANISH JAIN)