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Proceedings of the third meeting of the West Bengal Unorganised Sector Workers' Welfare Board held at the chamber of the Hon'ble MIC, Labour & Power, Government of West Bengal at Writers Buildings, (1st. floor) , Kolkata-1 on 10.06.2009

The meeting was attended by the members and other officials as per annexure A. Hon'ble MOS and Vice- Chairman of the Board initiated the discussions and requested the Secretary of the Board to state the agenda.

- The Joint Secretary, Labour Department and Secretary to the Board stated the agenda items.
- The premises in the 6th. floor at New Secretariat buildings admeasuring 2000 sq.ft. has been handed over to the Board and the office is running in the said premises.
- Renovation by the PWD and handing over of the remaining 1000 sq.ft. of the office space by PWD, is being pursued.
- Engagement of retired personnel in the RLOs has been approved by the Finance Department with a lump sum pay of Rs. 5000/- for doing clerical jobs and Rs. 3000/- for doing the jobs of Gr. D.
- The matter is being placed for approval of cabinet.
- The rates of commission to the collecting agents have been enhanced from Re1/- to Rs 2/-.
- SLOs are already included in the list of persons to be engaged as collecting agents in SASPFUW.
- Scheme for the welfare of transport workers is being worked out in consultation with Public Vehicles Department Officials.

After a threadbare discussion, following decisions were taken in the meeting:

- The proceedings of the second meeting of the Board was approved
- The decisions taken at the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 13.03.09 were ratified.
- Once the amount of deposit lying under the head of account '8336-00-800-013-19' is transferred to the board, it would be necessary to have a compatible network of accounts through banks all over the state for smooth delivery of benefits. Modalities are being worked in consultation with the Banks and Finance Department.

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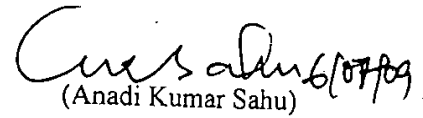
- An '*Operative Account*' in the name of '**West Bengal Unorganised Sector Workers Welfare Board-Administrative**' shall be opened by each RLWC and operated by them with express sanction from department/Board.
- Payments to collecting agents, retired persons, SLOs, administrative expenses and final payments to the beneficiaries shall be made from this account. A procedure would have to be made with the participating banks after discussing the matter.
- Finance Department would be moved through Labour department to provide the Board with the fund in advance for payment of commission to the collecting agents/SLOs and authorize the Board to incur such expenditure.
- The detail modalities would be finalised after discussing the matter with the participating banks.
- Necessary steps would be taken to start the process of computerisation of SASPFUW as early as possible to enable the issue of accounts statements to the subscribers on a regular basis.
- The Board members were apprised that the government was contemplating to tap the facilities available at the Common Service Centers run by West Bengal State Rural Development Agency in each Gram Panchayat for facilitating the collection of subscription directly from beneficiaries of SASPFUW and record keeping under the scheme.
- This facility would be used in addition to the existing system of collection by collecting agents/SLOs.
- As soon a draft scheme would be finalised, the matter would be placed before the Board for consideration.
- The representatives of the workmen expressed their concern that the workmen were not so much aware about common service centers.
- Care should be taken to ensure that introduction of any new methodology would not demotivate the workers and the collecting agents.
- The agenda of appointment of the Labour Commissioner, West Bengal as the Secretary of the Board and inclusion of an officer in the rank of Additional Labour Commissioner in the Board in place of Labour Commissioner, West Bengal and induction of Labour

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Commissioner, West Bengal into the Executive Council as permanent invitee would be taken up for discussion later.

- Trade Unions' representatives expressed their concern on reported exploitation and malpractice in the beedi workers integrated housing scheme. Appreciating the arduous job undertaken by the officials of labour directorate in processing of about 16,000 applications of beedi workers for housing, the Hon'ble MOS, Labour, apprised the members that efforts are on to check fake applications.
- Although 55,000 beedi workers have applied for grant for electrification of their houses, only 4000 electric connections could have been affected due to shortage of meters as reported by WBSEDCL. The Labour Department was keeping close contact with WBSEDCL for remedy.
- The Labour Commissioner, West Bengal apprised the Trade Unions' representatives that the officials of Labour Directorate were pursuing the collecting agents to function properly.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.


(Anadi Kumar Sahu)

Vice Chairman.