

Proceedings of the 10th meeting of West Bengal State Social Security Board held on 12.11.2024 at 02:30 P.M. at the Conference Hall of the Labour Department, New Secretariat Buildings, 12th floor, 1, K.S. Roy Road, Kolkata – 700001

List of members who attended the meeting is enclosed as **Annexure – I**.

As advised by Hon'ble Minister-In-Charge, Labour Department, Shri Avanindra Singh (IAS), Secretary, Labour Department, Government of West Bengal and Member Secretary of the West Bengal State Social Security Board (WBSSS Board) welcomed all the Hon'ble members of the Board and initiated the discussion. Thereafter, on request of the Secretary, Labour Department, Shri Ashis Sarkar, Chief Executive Officer, West Bengal Transport Workers Social Security Scheme and Additional Labour Commissioner, West Bengal started agenda wise discussions.

Agenda No 1: Confirmation of the proceedings of the 9th Board meeting held on 04.05.2023:

Placed and approved unanimously.

Agenda No 2: Action Taken Report on the Proceedings of the 9th meeting:

Action Taken Report on the decisions of the 9th Board meeting was placed before the members of the Board for their kind perusal.

Agenda No. 3: Approval of status report under BM-SSY upto 31.10.2024:

Status report of BM-SSY containing the number of registrations, benefit distribution of Transport Workers and CESS collection details under WBTWSSS are placed before the Hon'ble members and approved unanimously.

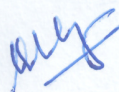
Agenda No. 4: Post facto approval of new modules which have already been introduced in BMSSY Portal to facilitate faster implementation of the scheme:

For delivering better citizen centric services through online mode and to facilitate faster implementation of the scheme, the following new Modules in the BMSSY portal had been introduced which were approved post facto by the Hon'ble Members: -

- i) PF Transaction Entry Module
- ii) Module for Registration under the WBTWSSS

Agenda No. 5: Post facto approval of various important official decisions taken by concerned appropriate authority:

- a) A comprehensive list of all important official orders and copies thereof were placed before the Hon'ble Members which were already issued on administrative necessity. The same were discussed and approved post facto.



- b) The engagement contracts of the Chartered Accountant Firm (M/s. N.C. Banerjee & Co.) had been renewed for the F.Y. 2023-24 and 2024-25 for keeping proper Accounts and other accounts related matters under WBTWSSS. This engagement contract order was placed before the Hon'ble board members and duly approved post facto.
- c) As per the approval of Hon'ble MIC, Labour Department and Chairperson of WBSSS Board, a Writ petition was filed before the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court by WBSSS Board in connection with renewal of exemption u/s 10(46) of Income Tax Act, 1961. Shri Jaydip Kar, Sr. Advocate and Shri Avro Mazumder, Jr. Advocate were engaged by WBSSS Board for this purpose. The Hon'ble Calcutta High Court passed order directing Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to hear the matter and pass reasoned order thereafter. After the hearing, CBDT has granted the renewal of exemption u/s 10(46) of Income Tax Act, 1961 for the financial year 2020-21 to 2024-25 vide Notification No. 99/2024 F. No. 300196/19/2019-ITA-I(Pt.1), dt. 12.08.2024.

It may kindly be noted that in the aforesaid order the renewal of exemption u/s 10(46) of Income Tax Act, 1961 was not granted for the financial year 2019 – 20. The matter is being taken up with Shri Jaydip Kar, Sr. Advocate and Shri Avro Mazumder, Jr. Advocate for necessary steps to be taken from the Board's end in this regard.

This engagement contract order was placed before the Hon'ble board members and duly approved post facto.

Agenda No. 6:- Post facto approval of new pension cases under WBTWSSS:

2322 numbers of new pension cases along with 108 numbers of family pension cases were approved by the concerned officials during the period from 01.05.2023 to 31.10.2024. This was placed for post facto approval of the Board. The matter was discussed and approved post facto by the Hon'ble Members.

Agenda No. 7: Post facto approval of Statement of Expenditure & Audited Financial Statement for the F.Y. 2022-2023 to 2023-2024 and approval of Budget for the F.Y. 2024-2025:

The Statement of Expenditure & Audited Financial Statement of the Board for the Financial Year 2022-2023 to 2023-2024 were placed for the post facto approval of the Hon'ble members of the Board.

The Budget for the Financial Year 2024-2025 was placed before the Hon'ble members of the Board for approval.

Both the matters mentioned above were discussed and approved post facto by the Hon'ble Members.

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Miscellaneous Agenda:

1. Renewal of service of Contractual employees in the office of the CEO:

The renewal of service of the contractual employees engaged at the Office of the CEO, under WBTWSSS, from 01.11.2023 to 31.10.2024 and 01.11.2024 to 31.10.2025 was placed before the Hon'ble members of the Board.

The matter was discussed and approved by the Hon'ble Members.

2. Enhancement of remuneration of Ranjit Ghosh:

Shri Ranjit Ghosh, a contractual Gr. D employee under West Bengal Transport Workers' Social Security Scheme, had submitted a prayer dated 01.04.24 according to order No 1091-F(P2) dated 01.03.2024 of Finance (Audit) Department, Government of West Bengal for enhancement of his remuneration, which was placed before the Board members.

After a detail discussion the enhancement of remuneration of Sri Ranjit Ghosh was approved by the Board and it was decided to fix the remuneration of Shri Ghosh as per existing Government norms along with the arrear payment, if any.

3. Proposal for reimbursement of the PF contribution of the Transport Workers deposited from 01.04.2020 to the date of attaining 60 years, who was registered in the erstwhile SASPFUW scheme :

After introduction of Bina Mulya Samajik Suraksha Yojana (BM-SSY) w.e.f. 01.04.2020 the State Government decided to pay the Government Grant for PF @ Rs. 55/- per month (including beneficiary contribution of Rs. 25/-) to every unorganized worker. In case of Transport Workers the Government Grant was decided to be paid from the Cess Fund of West Bengal Transport Workers Social Security Scheme.

Before introduction of BM-SSY, transport Workers who were enrolled under erstwhile SASPFUW, deposited their beneficiary contribution in PD Account maintained at Treasury by the West Bengal Unorganised Sector Workers' Welfare Board (WBUSWWB). The corresponding matching contribution and interest for Provident Fund were also deposited in the said PD account.

Since the accumulated amount of PF upto 31.03.2020 is presently lying with the PD Account of WBUSWWB, the entire final payment under PF (including the part beyond 31.03.2020) may be initially disbursed to such Transport Workers from the said PD Account for the sake of convenience. Subsequently, the Government Grant @ Rs.55/- along with the interest accrued against such Government Grant from 01.04.2020 to the date of Final Payment/ Pre-mature Withdrawal may be reimbursed periodically to the WBUSWW Board by the WBSSS Board from the cess fund.

M. Ghosh

The matter was placed before the Hon'ble Members and the proposal stated above was approved unanimously by them.

4. Calculation of interest related to Deposit Account under the West Bengal Transport Workers Social Security Scheme, 2010 :

M/s. N. C. Banerjee & Co., Chartered Accountant Firm was engaged for calculation of interest related to Deposit Account under the West Bengal Transport Workers Social Security Scheme, 2010, maintained at Kolkata Pay & Accounts Office-II from the date of inception (January,2019) upto March,2022. They have submitted the calculation of interest related to Deposit Account amounting to Rs. 10,94,47,224/- (Rupees Ten Crore Ninety Four Lakhs Forty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Four) and the same has been forwarded to the Finance Department through Labour Department, Government of West Bengal for further correspondence. Finance Department, Budget Branch has sanctioned interest amounting to Rs. 6,08,52,950.72/- (Rupees Six Crore Eight Lakh Fifty Two Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty and Seventy Two Paisa) only vide Memo No. 58(Sanc)-FB, dated 23.06.2023. The matter related to the difference between the calculated interest amount and sanctioned interest amount has already been taken up with the Accountant General (A&E), West Bengal for reconciliation. The matter was placed before the Hon'ble Members of the Board for their kind information.

5. Problems facing by the WBSSS Board for sanctioning pension benefit:

Problem - 1: Presently the RA may condone the delay of late renewal upto 3 years as per the decision taken in the 8th meeting of WBSSS Board held on 14.12.2021. Previously such provision of condonation of delay was upto 1 year. It is found that, in some cases renewal of registration was done beyond 1 year due to some technical issues in e-District portal. The Board is facing difficulties to sanction the pension cases in respect of such beneficiaries.

Proposed Solution: Decision may be taken by the Hon'ble Board members to regularise the matter so that such pending pension applications may be disposed of.

Problem - 2: It was decided in the 6th meeting of the Executive Council of West Bengal Transport Social Security Scheme, 2010 held on 15.05.2013 that a beneficiary opt to pay a cumulative fee of Rs. 90/- only for renewal of registration upto three years at a stretch vide order no. 201(70)/WBTWSSS/Estt./6/2/12 dated 04.06.2013.

Further, it was decided in the 9th meeting of the Executive Council of West Bengal Transport Social Security Scheme, 2010 held on 24.03.2015 that there will be no renewal fees w.e.f. 01.03.2015 and if a beneficiary fails to renew his registration after one year, his registration will be considered as expired.

But in the e-District portal the option of renewal of registration upto three years at a stretch could not be removed and as a result in some cases renewal was done for the period of three years instead of one year even after 01.03.2015.

Proposed Solution: This type of renewals may be considered as valid and such beneficiaries may be allowed for availing pension benefit after completion of 60 years of their age.

Both the problems mentioned above were discussed and the proposals were approved by the Hon'ble Members unanimously.

6. Enhancement of Travelling Allowance for non-official members for attending Board meeting:

The non-official members and non-official invitees were provided Rs. 1000/- only as Travelling Allowance w.e.f. 9th meeting held on 04.05.2023 as per resolution adopted in that meeting. It was proposed that the said travelling allowance may be enhanced from Rs. 1000 /- to Rs. 1500 /-.

It was decided that a file with this proposal of enhancement of travelling allowance would be initiated by the Board and sent to the Labour Department for approval.

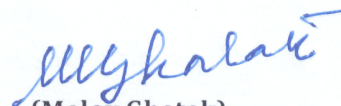
7. Waiving of maximum ceiling of Rs. 1200/- in the rate of Cess under West Bengal Motor Transport Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 2010:

The proposal of withdrawal of the ceiling of Rs.1200/- in the rate of Cess under West Bengal Motor Transport Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 2010 was prepared and sent to the Labour Department vide File No. 93/WBTWSSS/Estt./2023 Subsequently, the file was sent by the Labour Department to the Transport Department for their views. The views of the Transport Department have been received and placed before the members of the Board for their kind perusal.

It was decided by the Hon'ble Members that a file in this regard would be initiated from the Board and sent to the Labour Department to consider the views of the Transport Department and take further action at that end.

8. Smt. Papia Ghosh Roychowdhury, Special Secretary, Urban development and Municipal Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal suggested that the services of 'Bangla Sahayata Kendra' may be used for submission of application for Registration and Benefit Claim under BMSSY/WBTWSSS on behalf of the beneficiaries. In that case the dependence of the beneficiaries on SLO/CA for availing the said services through BMSSY portal can be minimized.

There being no other issues for discussion, the meeting ended with thanks to and from the Chair.


(Moloy Ghatak)

Chairperson, West Bengal State Social Security Board

&

Minister-in-Charge, Labour Department

Government of West Bengal

Annexure – I

Attendance Sheet of 10th Meeting of the West Bengal State Social Security Board

Date and Time: 12.11.2024 at 02.30 P.M.

Venue: Conference Hall of the Labour Department, New Secretariat Buildings, 12th Floor, 1, K. S. Roy Road, Kolkata – 700001.

Members present:

1. Shri Moloy Ghatak, Hon'ble MIC, Labour Department, Government of West Bengal -- Chairperson
2. Shri Avanindra Singh (I.A.S.), Secretary to the Govt of West Bengal, Labour Department, -- Member Secretary.
3. Shri Jawaid Akhtar, I.A.S. (Retd.), Labour Commissioner, West Bengal -- Member
4. Shri Sumahan Chakraborty, Representative, Centre of Indian Trade Unions (C.I.T.U.) -- Member
5. Shri S. K. Samad, Representative of Indian National Trade Union Congress (I.N.T.U.C.) -- Member
6. Shri Dilip Bhattacharya, Representative, AIUTUC -- Member
7. Shri Ujjal Mukherjee, Representative, Federation of Small and Medium Industries -- Member
8. Shri Aloke Chatterjee, Representative, Truck Owners' Association of Bengal -- Member
9. Shri Amitava Datta, Additional Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of West Bengal -- Member
10. Shri Abdur Rakib Shaikh, Additional Secretary, Transport Department, Govt of West Bengal -- Member
11. Smt. Papia Ghosh Roychowdhury, Special Secretary, Urban development and Municipal Affairs Department, Govt of West Bengal -- Member

Other officials present:

1. Shri Ashis Sarkar, CEO, WBTWSSS and Additional Labour Commissioner.
2. Shri Pulak Kumar Mandal, CAO, WBTWSSS and CF&CAO, Labour Commissionerate.
3. Shri Debojyoti Bose, Joint Labour Commissioner (P).
4. Shri Shyama Prasad Kundu, Deputy Labour Commissioner (P).
5. Shri Subrata Dasgupta, Deputy Labour Commissioner (P).