

Government of West Bengal
Finance Department
Audit Branch
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No. : 1221-F(P₂)FA/O/2M/493/12.

Dated, Howrah, the 7th March, 2024.

MEMORANDUM

Subject : Grant of Interest Free Festival Advance to the State Government Employees for the year, 2024.

The undersigned is directed by order of the Governor to say that the Governor has been pleased to accord sanction of Interest-free festival advance up-to a maximum of **Rs. 18,000/-** only to State Government employees whose revised emoluments on 31st March, 2024 exceeded **Rs. 42,000/-** p.m. but did not exceed **Rs. 50,000/-** p.m., if applied for the same.

The authorities competent to sanction the interest-free festival advance are those mentioned in Rule 320 of the West Bengal Financial Rules, Volume-I.

2. The undersigned is further directed to say that the benefit of interest-free festival advance may also be allowed to (a) the whole time piece rated workers, either permanent or temporary and (b) the employees belonging to work charged/contingent establishments. Such employees drawing revised emoluments exceeding **Rs. 42,000/-** p.m. but not exceeding **Rs. 50,000/-** p.m. on 31.03.2024 may be allowed to draw the interest-free festival advance of **Rs. 18,000/-** only, if they apply for the same.

3. In case of the employees falling under Para 2 above, the authority sanctioning the advance shall certify after being satisfied that the employee is likely to continue in service until the recovery in this respect is completed.

4. The advance will be recovered from the salary of the Government employee concerned in not more than 10 monthly instalments. If the amount of advance is exactly divisible by the number of instalments opted for the recovery, then it will be recovered in equal monthly instalments for that number of instalment months. If not the figure obtained by so dividing should be rounded off to the nearest rupee which will be the recoverable amount for each of the monthly instalments excluding the last instalment and the balance amount will be recovered in the last monthly instalment. The recovery of the advance sanctioned under this order will be either from the salary for the month of **November, 2024** at the latest or from the salary for the month following the month in which the advance is drawn, as the case may be. However, recovery in all cases should be completed by **31st August, 2025** at the latest.

5. The State Government employees who will retire/part with the Government service on a date after the issue of this order but before **1st November, 2024** will not be allowed any festival advance. However, an employee who will retire after **1st November, 2024** will be eligible for interest-free festival advance sanctioned in this order subject to the condition that the recovery should be completed on or before the month of his superannuation.

6. (a) Persons who will enter into State Government service for the first time after **31st March, 2024** but before **1st October, 2024** will be entitled to the benefit of interest-free festival advance as sanctioned in this order subject to fulfilment of the terms and conditions laid down hereinabove and their emoluments for the purpose of payment of advance will be determined on the basis of their emoluments at the time of entry into Government service.

(b) The benefit of interest-free festival advance sanctioned above will also be admissible to the State Government employees who have been appointed on regular or contract basis provided they are not eligible to draw ad-hoc bonus on pro-rata basis sanctioned for accounting year 2023-2024 and provided their regular or contract emoluments did not exceed **Rs. 50,000/-** p.m.

7. The benefit of interest-free festival advance sanctioned hereinabove will also be admissible to the personal staff of Chief Minister, Ministers and Ministers of State as well as the personal staff attached to the Chief Government Whip, Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly on the same terms and conditions as laid down hereinabove provided they are not eligible to draw ad-hoc bonus for the accounting year 2023-2024.

8. The benefit of interest-free festival advance will also be admissible to the personal staff of the Leader of the Opposition of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly provided they are not sanctioned ad-hoc bonus for the accounting year 2023-2024.

9. The benefit of interest-free festival advance will also be admissible to the regular teaching and non-teaching staff of the government sponsored educational institutions and regular employees of Panchayats & Local Bodies.

10. The Central Government employees on deputation to the State Government may be granted festival advance as may be sanctioned by the Government of India for Central Government Employees subject to the terms and conditions as may be laid down by the Government of India in this Regard.

11. For the purpose of this order, members of All India Services serving in connection with the affairs of the State will be regarded as State Government Employees.

12. For the employees drawing pay in the revised pay structure, the terms 'emoluments' will mean basic pay drawn in the applicable Level in the Pay Matrix, dearness allowance and non-practising allowance, if any.