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PART I

Punjab Government Notifications and Orders

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

NOTIFICATION

The 11th July, 2019

No. 14/20/2019-3P/1136.—The Governor of Punjab is pleased to approve a Scheme for Financial Assistance to Journalists to recognize the contribution of Media Persons in information dissemination to the Public.

SCHEME

1. The Scheme shall be called "Financial Assistance Scheme for Journalists"
2. The Scheme shall be fully funded by the Government of Punjab
3. In this scheme, unless the context otherwise requires,
 - a. "Application" means an application by a Journalist for obtaining benefit under the Scheme.
 - b. "Appointed Date" means the date in the Gregorian calendar on which the Journalist attains the age of 60 years
 - c. "Competent Authority" means the Authority notified in this regard by the State Government.
 - d. "Criminal Proceedings" means
 - i. First information Report under the Criminal Procedure Code or
 - ii. Criminal Complaint filed before a Court of Competent jurisdiction
 - e. "Journalist" shall mean all of the categories defined under Rule 2 (d) of "The Punjab Media Accreditation Rules-2009"
 - f. "Pensioner" means a Journalist who is receiving Financial Assistance under the Scheme
 - g. "Qualifying Period" means a period of not less than Five Years out of Six years counted backwards from the appointed date.
 - h. "Scheme" refers to the "Financial Assistance Scheme for Journalists"
4. To be eligible under the Scheme a Journalist should
 - a. Be a Citizen of India

- b. Not be less than 60 years of age
- c. Have been accredited by the Department of Information and Public Relations, Government of Punjab, for a period not less than the qualifying period.
- d. Have been a Journalist for at least 20 years in the State of Punjab
- e. Not have any criminal proceedings pending against him
- f. Not be in illegal occupation or possession of any Government Property
- g. Not be drawing a salary or a pension

Provided that where a journalist is drawing a financial assistance from a Fund wholly or partly subscribed by him, the same shall not render him ineligible to receive Financial Assistance under this scheme.

5. Any Journalist desirous of obtaining benefit under the Scheme shall have to submit an Application for the same.

6. Submission of Applications under the Scheme:-

- a. An Application shall be submitted only in the format prescribed by the Department of Information and Public Relations, Government of Punjab, and any application received in any other format shall be deemed to have been summarily rejected.
- b. An application shall be submitted within a period of not more than six months from the Appointed Date

Provided that the Competent Authority may, in exceptional circumstances, relax this period by a further six months for reasons to be recorded in writing

- c. All applications received within a period of six months from the Notification of the Scheme in the Official Gazette shall not be rejected only on the ground of non-compliance of Section 6 (b) of the scheme.
- d. Any time period between the Appointed Date and the date of filling of an application in a non-prescribed format shall not be condoned for the purpose of calculation of period in Section 6 (b) of the scheme.
- e. All Applications shall be personally signed by the Applicant

Provided where an Applicant is unable to sign the Application personally, for the reasons of infirmity or otherwise, the Competent Authority may relax this condition for reasons to be recorded in writing.

7. The Competent Authority shall approve or reject an Application within a period of one month from the receipt of such an Application.

Provided that valid reasons shall be duly recorded in case an Application is rejected.

8. Where an Application has been accepted, the Applicant shall be provided a Monthly Financial Assistance at such rates as the State Government may notify time to time.

9. The Competent Authority may suspended further Financial Assistance under the scheme to a Pensioner, or declare a Pensioner ineligible for receiving further Financial Assistance under the Scheme, in the event of—

- a. Death
- b. Ceasing to be a Citizen of India

- c. Launch of Criminal Proceedings against him
- d. Disaccreditation under sub Rule (a), (b), (c), (f), of Rule 6 (i) of the Punjab Media Accreditation Rules-2009
- e. Disaccreditation under Rule 6 (ii) and Rule 6 (iii) of Punjab Media Accreditation Rules-2009
- f. Drawing of Salary or Pension by the Journalist
- g. Incorrect information furnished by him at the time of submission of application
- h. Illegal occupation of any Government Property

Provided that where a Journalist is drawing a pension from a Fund wholly or partly subscribed by him, the same shall not render him ineligible to draw pension under the scheme

Provided that no order declaring the Pensioner ineligible to receive further Financial Assistance under the scheme shall be passed without affording him an opportunity of hearing.

10. In the event of any dispute arising out of interpretation of any of the Clauses of the Scheme the decision of the State Government shall be final.

Sd/-

(GURKIRAT KIRPAL SINGH)

Secretary to Government of Punjab,
Department of Information & Public Relations