

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

SCHEME FOR CONSTITUTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE JOURNALIST WELFARE FUND

(as modified w.e.f. August 25, 2010)

TITLE OF THE SCHEME	The Scheme may be called the Journalists Welfare Fund
PERIOD OF OPERATION	It shall come into force with effect from <u>25th August, 2010</u> .
PURPOSE OF THE FUND	<p>To provide one time ex-gratia relief on urgent basis to journalists and their families.</p> <p>A journalist for the purpose of this scheme would mean,</p> <p>(i) a working journalist as defined under the Working Journalists and other Newspaper employees (Condition of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955, or</p> <p>(ii) 'Media Personnel' whose principal avocation is that of reporting/editing for news channels of radio, TV or web-based services and who is employed as such, either whole-time or part-time, in or in relation to, one or more such establishments and includes news editor, reporter, photographer, cameraman, photo journalist, freelance journalists, but does not include any such person who --</p> <p>a) is employed mainly in a managerial or administrative capacity, or</p> <p>b) is being employed in a supervisory capacity, performs, either by the nature of the duties attached to his office or by reason of the powers vested in him, function mainly of a managerial nature.</p> <p>Family for the purpose of this Fund will mean the journalist, spouse, dependent parents and dependent children.</p>
CONSTITUTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND	<p>The fund will be constituted under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and will be administered by a Committee comprising:-</p> <p>Minister/Minister of State of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Govt. of India - Patron Secretary(I&B) - Chairperson Principal DG (M&C), PIB - Member AS&FA - Member JS(P) - Member Dy. Secretary/Director, Ministry of I&B handling Press matters - Member- Convener</p>

CORPUS OF THE FUND	The Fund will be set up with the receipts of need based Grants made by the Government of India. The amount available in the fund would be kept in the section 'Reserve Funds bearing interest' in the Public Account of India.'
INCOME TO THE FUND	Interest shall be allowed on the balances available in the fund at the end of each year at the rate decided by the Ministry of Finance from time to time.
PAYMENTS FROM THE FUND	The payment should be restricted to the interest earnings only. The actual principal should not be eroded.
ELIGIBILITY FOR AVAILING ASSISTANCE FROM THE FUND	<p>A journalist shall be eligible for relief from the Fund, provided that -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) He/she is a citizen of India,2) He/she is ordinarily resident of India,3) He/she should be accredited to PIB at the Headquarters of the Govt. of India or at the Headquarters (Capitals) of the State/UT Governments.4) Journalists who are not presently accredited to either the Government of India or any State/UT Government shall also be eligible for relief from the Fund if they have been journalists as defined under these guidelines for a minimum period of five continuous years.
PROCEDURE FOR SANCTION FROM THE FUND	<p>Proposals received for assistance from the Fund will be processed by the Principal Director General (Media & Communication), Press Information Bureau (PIB) and will be sent to the Committee with specific recommendation and supporting documents.</p> <p>The recommendation will be considered and decided by the Committee and the assistance will be released with the approval of Minister of Information & Broadcasting. However, in cases of urgency, the Chairman may initiate a case for approval of Minister of Information & Broadcasting. Such approvals will be reported in the next meeting of the Committee.</p>
APPLICATION FORM	The application for the grant of financial assistance under this scheme shall be submitted to the Principal DG (M&C), PIB in the form prescribed in schedule-I. Any other additional information may be asked by the Committee. The Committee may amend the application format as and when required.

The Committee may also suo moto take up cases for

grant of financial assistance even if an application has not been received from the journalist/beneficiaries.

**ASSISTANCE
AVAILABLE UNDER THE
FUND**

- (i) Upto Rs.5 lakh may be provided to the family under extreme hardship on account of death of the journalist.
- (ii) Upto Rs.5 lakh may be provided to the journalist in case of permanent disability rendering the journalist incapable of earning a livelihood.
- (iii) Upto Rs.3 lakh may be provided towards the cost of treatment of major ailments such as cancer, renal failure, heart ailments requiring by-pass/open heart surgery, angioplasty, brain hemorrhage and paralytic attack etc. This would be subject to the medical expenditure not being covered under CGHS, or any other insurance/ departmental health schemes, etc. However, relief under this provision is available to the journalist only upto the age of 65 years.
- (iv) Upto Rs.2 lakh may be provided in case of accidents causing serious injuries necessitating hospitalization. This would be subject to the medical expenditure not being covered under CGHS, or any other insurance/departmental health schemes, etc.

However, in case of non-accredited journalists, the quantum of assistance available for cases (ii), (iii) and (iv) above will be limited to Rupees One Lakh for journalists having worked as such for 5 continuous years and thereafter Rupees One Lakh for every additional 5 years of working in the same manner subject to the maximum ceiling provided in each case.

EXCEPTION

Notwithstanding anything contained in these guidelines, the Committee if it feels necessary in very special/ exceptional cases may recommend higher level of assistance or suggest any other deviation of the guidelines for approval of Hon'ble Minister of Information & Broadcasting.

ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

The Fund shall be non-lapsable in nature as the accounts are closed to balance.

The Fund shall be subject to internal audit of Chief Controller of Accounts, M/o I&B and statutory audit of Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

**MAINTENANCE OF
ACCOUNTS**

Accounts for the income and expenditure from Journalists Welfare Fund would be maintained by the Pay & Accounts Office (Main Secretariat) of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in an appropriate manner, showing the opening balance for each year, revenue accrued, amount available for disbursement, amount disbursed and closing balance at the end of the financial year.

Payment shall be made by cheque issued by the Pay & Accounts Office (Main Secretariat), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, in the name of the applicant who could be a dependent of the deceased journalist or the journalist himself/ herself in the case of permanent disability of the journalist.

**RELATIONSHIP OF THE
FUND WITH GENERAL
REVENUES**

The periodic contributions to the Fund shall be kept within the Government Account in the section "Reserve Fund bearing interest" in the Public Account of India. The fund would be classified under the Major Head '8121-General and Other Reserve Funds'.

GENERAL

Grant of financial assistance from the Fund to any working journalist is not a matter of right. Assistance would be extended depending on the Committee's satisfaction regarding the eligibility/merits of the cases and the financial resources available for the purpose. The Committee reserves the right to reject or accept any application without assigning any reasons therefor.

APPLICATION FORM FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO JOURNALISTS UNDER THE SCHEME 'JOURNALISTS WELFARE FUND'

To,

The Principal Director General (M&C)
 Press Information Bureau
 'A' Wing, Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi.

1.	Name of the Journalist seeking financial assistance (or for whom financial assistance is being sought)	
2.	In case of demise of the Journalist: Name of the applicant in full, along with address and relation with the deceased	
3.	Age and date of birth of the Journalist	
4.	Full address of Journalist (Proof of residence be attached)	
5.	Organization for which the Journalist was/is working. (Indicate Freelance if applicable)	
6.	Nature of Employment (Full Time/Part Time, Regular/Contractual Employee, Stringer, Retired, Contract for Job work)	
7.	Details of work experience of Journalist, along with the duration of service in the above organization	
8.	Reason and purpose for financial assistance (attach documentary proof as applicable)	
9.	Amount of financial assistance sought	
10.	Details of financial assistance received / applied for from other sources: (eg. PM Relief Fund, CM Relief Fund, Journalist Associations etc)	
11.	Whether accredited with PIB or State Govt. (Give details)	

I hereby certify that all the above particulars furnished by me are true to the best of my knowledge and nothing has been concealed which is relevant to this request for financial assistance.

I undertake to refund the assistance if it is found at any stage that it was obtained on basis of information known to be false or misrepresentation of true facts along with the interest at the prevailing interest rates applicable in nationalized banks.

Signature of the Applicant

Place

Date

Document attached: