

**Consolidation of Rules /orders FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRESS
RELIEF FUND**

(Made upto date till 31-01-1984)

Of the Fund

1. The Fund may be known by the name “Distress Relief Fund.

Object of the Fund

2. The Fund is constitute for the purpose of giving relief in cases of privation and also to those affected by fire, flood, cyclone sea erosion and similar other calamities. Educational Cultural and Charitable Institutions of a public nature, which are affected by such calamities and whose financial position does not enable them to repair the damage caused to their property and bring it to a normal condition are also eligible for financial assistance from the Fund. Relief may also be provided from the Distress Relief Fund for the workers thrown out of employment for the reason beyond their control, in units not covered by Employees State Insurance Schemes or Employees Provident Fund Schemes in the traditional sector alone, provided the family income of the worker is Rs.1,000/- (vide G.O.MS)No.669/87/RD dated 07-10-87) P.m; limiting the Relief to a maximum of two weeks wages (ie.basic pay and Dearness Allowance). Financial Assistance from this Fund will be restricted to cases not covered by other special relief programs of Government.

Explanation:

The term “Privation” does not refer to ordinary cases of poverty, but refers only to exceptional cases of real hardship due to sudden loss of income where the District Collector is satisfied that financial assistance would be necessary.

Note:- Causes of death/permanent disablement due to accidents, serious and/or protracted illness causing prolonged and /or expensive medical treatment will also be considered for relief. Provided the bereaved families/the persons concerned are not eligible for assistance from any other source of Government.

The financial assistance in the case of accidental death of non-adults will be half the rates sanctioned in the case of death of adults.

Constitution of the Fund

3. The Fund shall be made up of the balance of the amounts left over after affording relief to Coir Workers on account of the slump in coir industry and also of contributions by Government, District and Taluk Committee, and by the public Associations, Clubs, etc.

Investment of the Fund:

4. The Fund shall be deposited in the FD. Account "Distress Relief Fund" in the District Treasury, Trivandrum in the name of the Finance Secretary to Government. It may also be invested in such manner as may be prescribed by the Committee from time to time. An advance of Rs.10,000/- (Rupees Ten thousand only) from this fund will be placed at the disposal of each of the District Collectors and they shall be the Ex-Officio Co-Treasurers of the Fund. The District Collector shall open a Savings Bank Account with the State Bank of Travancore or State Bank of India with the initial deposit given to him.

General Committees:

5. The Fund shall be administered by a Committee consisting of the following members:-
 1. The Chief Minister – Ex-Officio Chairman
 2. The Finance Minister – Ex-Officio Vice Chairman
 3. The Minister for Revenue – Ex-Officio member
 4. The Chief Secretary to Govt. Ex-Officio member
 5. The Secretary to Govt.(Revenue)- Ex –Officio member Secretary and Convener
 6. The Finance Secretary to Govt. Ex-Officio member and Treasurer
 7. The Member, Board of Revenue in charge of Land Revenue-Ex-Officio member.

Secretary and Convenor:-

6. The Secretary to Government, Revenue Department shall be the Secretary and Convener of the Committee and the Committee shall meet as often as necessary but at least once every year in the month of June.

Forum:

7. The Quorum of the Committee shall be four.

President of the Committee

8. The Chairman shall preside over all meetings of the Committee and his absence by the Vice-Chairman. When both of them are absent the members present shall elect a Chairman for the transaction of the meeting of the Committee for the day.

Procedure:

9. In the event, of the occurrence of any of the calamities referred to in Rule 2 above. The Tahasildar in whose territorial jurisdiction the calamity has occurred shall report the matter to the District Collector within 24 hours with suitable recommendation for financial assistance according to the merits of each case. The Collector shall after immediate enquiry apprise the Committee suggesting suitable relief measures. The Convener shall immediately sanction the assistance with from the Fund, The District Collector shall pay the amount to the parties from the advance placed at his disposal. The distributing authority may consult the local body concerned also while distributing the amount to the distressed people, provided the District Collector shall sanction financial assistance upto a limit of Rs.500/- (Rupees Five hundred only) in each deserving case subject to the condition that copied of Orders issued by him shall be communicated to the Finance Secretary, Revenue Secretary and Secretary to the Chief Minister. The District Collector shall sanction financial assistance of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees One thousand only). Each in the case of accidental financial assistance upto a limit of Rs. 500/- (Rupees five hundred only) G.O (MS 815/84/RD dated 16.08.94).

Maximum assistance:

10.The maximum amount of financial aid shall not ordinary exceed Rs.1000/- (Rupees One thousand only) in the case of a family and Rs. 2000/-(Rupees Two thousand only) in the case of an institution;

Provided financial aid exceeding the above limits may be sanctioned to an individual of an institution in deserving cases with reference to the financial position of the individual or the institution and the extent of the damages suffered.

11.The persons whose family income is Rs. 1000/-(vide G.O(MS)No.669/87/RD dated 7/10/87) or less per month will be eligible for financial assistance from the Fund.

12.All routine cases for financial assistance coming within the purview of the rules for the Administration of Distress Relief Fund shall be seen only by the Revenue Secretary. Cases which involve relaxation of rules shall be seen by the Finance Secretary and Chief Secretary also before circulating them to the Minister (Revenue) and the Chief Minister. All other case shall be sanctioned by the Full Committee.

Note:- Notwithstanding anything contained in this rules it is open to the Chief Minister to sanction financial assistance at his discretion to any individual/institution in special circumstances.

Local Committee

13.In additionto the Central Committee, Taluk and District committees shall also be formed in connection with the occurrence of any calamity with the Tahasildar or the Collector as the Convener and collection and distribution of aid shall be made both in the form of money and material according to the resolution of the Committees. In such cases the cash collection shall be remitted to the credit of the “Distress Relief Fund”

Annual Accounts:

14.The Secretary and Convener shall prepare and place before the Committee in June every year an annual report on the administration of the Fund with a Certificate from the Treasurer the account relating to receipts into and disbursement out of the Fund during the previous financial year.

Note:

Amendments issued under (1) G.O.MS.No.1210/72/RD, dated 08-12-72 (2) G.O.MS.No. 1384/75/RD dated 6-10-75 (3) G.O.MS No. 857/83/RD dated 30-8-1983 (4) G.O.MS.No.960/83/RD dated 12-10-1983 (5) G.O.MS No. 107/84/RD, dated 31-01-1984 are incorporated in the rules.

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