

FD-FPPC0CORD/51/2020-3/5FPPC/696
GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
(FINANCE PENSION POLICY & COORDINATION BRANCH)

Dated, Chandigarh the 8th May, 2020

To

- i. All Special Chief Secretaries, Additional Chief Secretaries, Financial Commissioners, Principal Secretaries & Administrative Secretaries to Govt. of Punjab.
- ii. All Heads of the Departments of the State;
- iii. All Commissioners of Divisions,
- iv. All Deputy Commissioners & District & Sessions Judges and;
- v. The Registrar, Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh;
- vi. Secretary, Punjab Vidhan Sabha.

Sub: Grant of Ex-gratia Compensation to dependent members/legal heirs of employees who die in harness while on government duty of fighting against coronavirus pandemic.

Sir/Madam

COVID-19 has been declared as a pandemic by WHO on 11th March 2020. The Government of Punjab has also notified COVID-19 under the Epidemic Disease Act, 1897. The Government has taken various containment measures to restrict further spread of this virus including lockdown/ curfew across the state since 23/03/2020 and has taken a series of unprecedented preventive and corrective measures to counter the challenge posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, to fight the menace, new policy decisions have become the need of the hour. To fight this pandemic not only the employees of Health & Family Welfare and Medical Education and Research department but employees from other department are also working incessantly.

2. There is always a probability of such employees working at the frontline to contract infection. The Government of Punjab, after careful consideration, has decided to put in place special provisions with regard to Ex-Gratia admissible to dependants/legal heirs of employees who die in harness while on **government duty during the fight against coronavirus pandemic.**

3. **Ex-Gratia admissible to dependents/legal heirs of employees who die in harness due to Coronavirus infection contracted while on official duty related to State's fight to control the spread of Coronavirus:**

- a. It shall be applicable to all categories of regular employees of the

Government of Punjab who die in harness due to the COVID-19 disease contracted while performing official duties.

b. It shall be admissible to all the employees covered under the Old Pension scheme and those recruited on or after 1.1.2004 & covered under the New Pension Scheme (NPS).

c. The Civil Surgeon of the concerned district where the employee was on duty shall be the competent authority to certify whether the employee was Corona positive and whether the death is attributable to the COVID-19 disease resulting from the Coronavirus.

d. The Deputy Commissioner of the concerned district where the employee was on duty shall be the competent authority to certify whether the employee was on duty in the State's war on fighting COVID-19 while the Coronavirus has been contracted by such employee. The Deputy Commissioner, while issuing such a certificate, can call upon the report from the Head of Office concerned to ascertain the nature of duties entrusted upon such employees and whether the Coronavirus could have been acquired/contracted by the employee in the line of his/her Official duty.

e. The certificates mentioned at points (c) and (d) above shall be issued by the concerned Civil Surgeon and Deputy Commissioner only and can not be delegated to any other Official.

f. The ex-gratia claim submitted by the Office shall be accompanied by the certificates mentioned at points (c) and (d) above.

g. Ex-Gratia compensation @ Rs 50 lacs shall be admissible in such cases to the dependent members/ legal heirs of the employee.

4. Ex- Gratia admissible to dependents/legal heirs of employees who die in harness due to any other reason (except natural death, suicide and homicide not attributable to official duty) while on official duty related to State's fight to control the spread of Coronavirus:

a. It shall be applicable to all categories of regular employees of the Government of Punjab who die in harness due to any reason (except natural death, suicide and Homicide not attributable to Official duty) while on Official duty related to State's fight to control the spread of Coronavirus.

b. It shall be admissible to all the employees covered under the Old Pension scheme and those recruited on or after 1.1.2004 & covered under the New Pension Scheme (NPS).

c. It shall be admissible only where the employee is involved directly in the

States fight against Coronavirus eg: Employees on duty at COVID-Hospitals/ CCCs, Drivers transporting citizens of the state from other states/COVID patients/suspects etc., Ration distribution, Curfew/Lockdown implementation etc.

d. The Civil Surgeon of the concerned district where the employee was on duty shall be the competent authority to certify the cause of death.

e. The Deputy Commissioner of the concerned district where the employee was on duty shall be the competent authority to certify whether the employee was on duty and directly involved in the State's war on fighting Coronavirus while the employee died. The Deputy Commissioner, while issuing such a certificate, can call upon the report from the Head of Office concerned to ascertain the nature of duties entrusted upon such employees and whether the employee was on duty on the day of mishap.

f. The certificate mentioned at point (d) and (e) above shall be issued by the concerned Civil Surgeon and Deputy Commissioner only and can not be delegated to any other-Official.

g. The ex-gratia claim submitted by the Office shall be accompanied by the certificates mentioned at points (d) and (e) above.

h. Ex-Gratia compensation @ Rs 50 lakhs shall be admissible in such cases.

5. In all other cases where the employee dies in harness and death is natural/suicidal/homicidal not attributable to Official duty or where the employee was not directly involved in the States fight against Coronavirus, the existing instructions of Ex-Gratia shall apply.

6. The expenditure shall be debited to the major head "2235-Social Security and Welfare-60-Other Social Security and Welfare Programmes-200-other Programmes-08-Ex-gratia payments to families of Ministers, Government Servants etc., dying in harness".

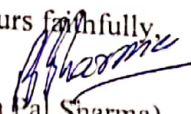
7. These instructions shall not be applicable to all such cases which are covered and eligible under the Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Yojana- Insurance scheme for workers fighting COVID-19.

8. Cases of providing monetary relief to the dependents of manpower working on contract or through outsourcing, who die in harness due to the COVID-19 disease contracted while performing official duties shall be considered under the provisions of the 'Chief Minister's Relief Fund'.

9. The compensation is admissible only for the pandemic of COVID-19 and it shall remain in force for a period of four months from 01.04.2020 to 31.7.2020 subject to review thereafter.

10. Receipt of this communication may please be acknowledged at e-office.
11. Necessary amendment in the rules shall follow.

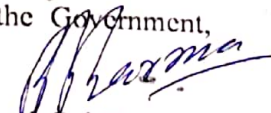
Yours faithfully,


(Ramesh Pal Sharma)
Under Secretary Finance

I.D.No. **FD-FPPC0CORD/51/2020-3/5FPPC/697**

Dated: 08-05-2020

A copy is forwarded to the Chief Secretary to the Government, Punjab for his information, please.

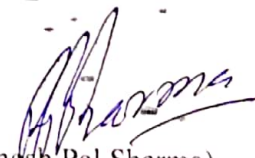

(Ramesh Pal Sharma)
Under Secretary Finance

Endst. No. **FD-FPPC0CORD/51/2020-3/5FPPC/698-704**

Dated: 08-05-2020

A copy is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action:-

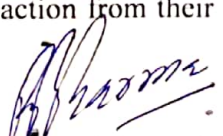
- 1 Accountant General (A&E), Punjab, Sector-17, Chandigarh;
- 2 Accountant General (Audit), Punjab, Chandigarh;
- 3 Finance Secretary, Chandigarh Administration (U.T.), Chandigarh;
- 4 Director, Treasury & Accounts, Punjab, Finance and Planning Bhawan, Sector-33, Chandigarh, and
- 5 All District Treasury Officers in the State of Punjab.
- 6 All PA/PS/SSS in the Department of Finance.
- 7 All Superintendents in the Department of Finance.


(Ramesh Pal Sharma)
Under Secretary Finance

Endst. No. **FD-FPPC0CORD/51/2020-3/5FPPC/705**

Dated: 08-05-2020

A copy is forwarded to the Director, Directorate of Public Enterprises and Disinvestment with a request to bring the above instructions of the Govt of Punjab to the notice of all Boards, Corporations, PSUs, autonomous/semi-autonomous organisations of the Govt. of Punjab for consideration of similar action from their own resources.


(Ramesh Pal Sharma)
Under Secretary Finance