

RULES FOR THE GRANT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER
RAJIV GANDHI SOCIAL SECURITY SCHEME FOR POOR FAMILIES-2005

1. Short title, application and commencement.-

- (1) These rules may be called the "Rules for the Grant of Financial Assistance under the Rajiv Gandhi Social Security Scheme for Poor Families – 2005".
- (2) It shall extend to the whole of the Union territory of Pondicherry.
- (3) It shall be deemed to have come into force with effect from 05-02-2005.

2. Object.-

The object of the scheme is to provide financial assistance to all the Below Poverty Line family members in the Union territory of Pondicherry in the age group of 18-60 years, in the event of natural and unnatural death, partial total disability and permanent total disability due to accidents.

3. Definitions.-

In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires. -

- (i) "appellate authority" means the Collector of the respective District.
- (ii) "Authorized Signatory" shall mean the Settlement Officer.
- (iii) "below poverty line" shall mean the family whose annual income is not more than Rs.24,000/-.
- (iv) "beneficiary/claimant" shall mean the person (or persons) who claims for the financial assistance under these rules.
- (v) "benefit" means the financial assistance sanctioned under these rules.
- (vi) "Certificate of Death" shall mean the death certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the Government of Pondicherry.
- (vii) "Certificate of Disability" shall mean the Partial Total Disability Certificate or Permanent Total Disability Certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the Government of Pondicherry.
- (viii) "Competent Authority" shall mean the Registrar of Births and Deaths of the Municipality / Commune Panchayat in the case of issue of Certificate of Death and any Medical Officer not below the rank of Specialist Grade – II (Junior Scale) in the field of disability concerned of the General Hospital, in the case of issue of Certificate of Disability due to accident.

- (ix) "Corpus Fund" means fund maintained by the Department of Revenue and Disaster Management, Government of Pondicherry for implementation of this scheme operated through any nationalized bank.
- (x) "Form" means the forms prescribed under these rules.
- (xi) "Government" means the Administrator of the Union territory of Pondicherry appointed by the President under article 239 of the Constitution of India.
- (xii) "member" shall mean all persons in the age group of 18 –60 years in the Below Poverty Line family, whose annual family income is not more than Rs.24,000/-.
- (xiii) "Partial Total Disability" shall mean the disability which is less than 40 %
- (xiv) "Permanent Total Disability" shall mean the disability which is more than 40%.
- (xv) "rules" shall mean the Rules of this Scheme and as amended from time to time.
- (xvi) "Scholarship" means grant of financial assistance to the tune of Rs.1,200/- per annum at the rate of Rs.400/- per term for the wards of the BPL families studying in 9th to 12th Standard, subject to a maximum of two students in a family. This assistance will be granted in a progressive manner from students studying in the 9th and 10th standard during the current Academic Year.
- (xvii) "Settlement Officer" shall mean the Revenue Officer, in the Office of the Additional Secretary (Revenue), Pondicherry and in the Office of the Sub/Deputy Collector (Revenue), Karaikal.
- (xviii) "Union territory" means the Union territory of Pondicherry.

4. Eligibility.-

(1) The following shall be the eligibility conditions for the grant of financial assistance under these rules.-

The deceased/disabled person for whom claim is made shall be a member of the Below Poverty Line Family in the age group of 18-60 years, in the Union Territory of Pondicherry, whose annual family income shall not be more than Rs.24,000/-.

5. Procedure for making the claim application.-

- (1) The claim form shall be available in all the respective Taluk / Sub-Taluk Office at free of cost.
- (2) The claimant/beneficiary shall claim financial assistance in Form-A, if the death of the member is natural / unnatural.
- (3) The claimant / beneficiary shall claim financial assistance in Form-B, if the member is partially disabled or permanently disabled due to an accident.

- (4) The claim form shall be submitted to the Tahsildar / Deputy Tahsildar of the respective Taluk / Sub-Taluk Office falling within the jurisdiction of the member, within 180 days from the date of death of the member or from the date of accident to the member.
- (5) The claim form shall be accompanied by the following certificates/ documents, namely:-
 - a. Attested photocopy of the BPL Family Ration Card
(or)
Original Income Certificate of the family whose annual income is not more than Rs.24,000/- issued by the Tahsildar / Deputy Tahsildar Taluk/Sub-Taluk Office.
 - b. Original Death Certificate issued by the Competent Authority.
 - c. Original Disability Certificate issued by the Competent Authority in case of accident to the member.
 - d. Attested photocopy of the i) F.I.R. ii) Post Mortem report iii) Police Inquest Report in case of the accidental / unnatural death.

6. Procedure to be followed in Settlement of Claims.-

- (1) The respective Taluk / Sub-Taluk Office shall scrutinize the claim form and after checking the veracity of the application shall forward the eligible Claim Forms along with the enclosures to the Settlement Officer.
- (2) Claim form submitted to the respective Taluk /Sub-Taluk office after 180 days of the date of death of the member or of the date of disablement due to accident to the member and incomplete claim forms without necessary enclosures shall not be forwarded to the Settlement Officer.
- (3) The Settlement Officer may accept the Claim Forms submitted after 180 days from the date of death of the member or from the date of accident to the member as the case may be, if it is duly enquired into and recommended as a genuine case condoning the delay by the Collector.
- (4) The Settlement Officer shall scrutinize the claim form and after being satisfied as to the eligibility shall sanction the financial assistance in Form-C to the claimant/beneficiary in the case of death of the member and grant the same in the form of cheques.
- (5) The Settlement Officer shall scrutinize the claim form and after being satisfied as to the eligibility shall sanction financial assistance in Form-D in case of partial or permanent total disability of the member due to accident and grant the same in the form of cheques.

7. Sanction of Benefits.-

(1) The following financial assistance is provided to the members covered under this scheme:

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| (a) In case of natural death | -- Rs.25,000/- |
| (b) In case of unnatural death
i.e. death by accident | -- Rs.50,000/- |
| (c) In case of Permanent Total Disability
due to accident | -- Rs.50,000/- |
| (d) In case of Partial Total Disability
due to accident | -- Rs.25,000/- |

8. Grant of Scholarship.-

- (1) Scholarship of Rs.1,200/- per year is granted at the rate of Rs.400/- per term to the wards of the below poverty line family members studying in 9th to 12th Standard who are covered under this scheme, subject to a maximum of two students in a family. This assistance will be granted in a progressive manner from students studying in the 9th and 10th standard during the current academic year.
- (2) The scholarship amount shall be granted to the eligible students during the beginning of the III term of the Academic Year, through the Principal/Head Master of the school in which the student is studying.
- (3) The eligible students shall apply for the scholarship in Form-E
- (4) The duly filled-in Form-E shall be submitted to the Settlement Officer during the end of the II term of the Academic Year.
- (5) Form-E received after the II term of the Academic Year will be summarily rejected without notice.

8. Corpus Fund.-

The respective District Collector shall maintain a corpus fund of Rs.10.00 lakhs for Pondicherry District and Rs.5.00 lakhs for Karaikal District out of the budget provision allocated in the Head of Account "2235- Social Security And Welfare" by opening a separate bank account in any nationalized bank for the purpose of implementation of this scheme.

9. Penalty.-

In case the financial assistance has been sanctioned on the basis of false / wrong information given by the beneficiary/member, the entire amount paid is liable to be recovered under the Pondicherry Revenue Recovery Act. The individual is also liable to be prosecuted for deliberately furnishing false / wrong information.

10. Appeal.-

Any person aggrieved by any decision of the Settlement Officer may prefer an appeal to the Appellate Authority within thirty days from the date of receipt of such decision.

11. Interpretation.-

If any doubt arises as to the interpretation of these rules, the same shall be referred to the Government for decision, which shall be final.
