

SCHEME OF EDUCATIONAL STIPEND FOR WARDS OF TEA PLANTATION WORKERS. (Revised - Effective from 1-4-2007)

a. INTRODUCTION:

Employers are primarily responsible for welfare of tea plantation workers under the Plantation Labour Act and the Rules framed thereunder. The Tea Act, however, directs the Tea Board to help in securing better working conditions towards improvement of amenities and incentives for workers. In the discharge of this directive, the Tea Board has been operating a number of welfare schemes for the benefit of tea workers. The grant of educational stipends for wards of the tea plantation workers is one of the welfare schemes of the Board.

b. NATURE OF STIPEND:

To encourage education among the children of tea plantation workers, the Tea Board grants necessary stipend from elementary/primary stage in tea growing states of North & South India. Stipends are available for elementary, middle, Secondary education, General and Technical Degrees including Post Graduate courses and Technical and Vocational Education. Under the scheme, tuition fees and hostel charges (including boarding and lodging) are paid on the basis of actuals subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 40,000/- per annum per student consisting of Rs. 20,000/- as tuition fees and Rs. 20,000/- as hostel charges (effective from 01-04-2007).

c. ELIGIBILITY:

- i) Children of person directly employed in a registered tea estate and governed by the Plantation Labour Act are eligible for stipend provided the wages (total cash emoluments) of their parents do not exceed Rs. 10,000/- per month.
- ii) Children of a Medical Officer or any person employed in tea estate primarily in a managerial capacity, whose service conditions are not governed by the Plantation Labour Act, can also be granted stipend provided their emoluments do not exceed Rs. 10,000/- per month.
- iii) Not more than 2 children including legally adopted one of workers/employees drawing a total monthly emolument upto Rs. 10,000/- can be granted stipend.
- iv) An orphan adopted by a worker and dependent on him or her can also be granted a stipend, provided his/her total emolument does not exceed Rs. 10,000/- per month.
- v) A brother or a sister of a worker, if wholly dependent upon the worker, is eligible for a stipend provided the emolument of the worker does not exceed Rs. 10,000/- per month.
- vi) Ordinarily, students in receipt of free tuition or any other scholarship/stipend from Government or other sources are not entitled to stipend under the scheme. But in cases where such scholarship/stipend does not provide for Hostel Charges, a grant representing the balance may be sanctioned under the scheme or $\frac{2}{3}^{\text{rd}}$ of hostel charges whichever is lower.
- vii) Students in full time employment or those who wish to pursue their studies in the institutions/organizations meant for employed workers or through correspondence course will not be eligible.

d. CONDITIONS AND TENABILITY OF STIPENDS:

- i) All stipends awarded under the scheme are tenable only for one academic session for pursuing regular full time courses in recognized institutions/organizations in India only. At the end of each academic session, a candidate has to make a fresh application with the annual progress report certified by the Head of the Institutions/organizations where the student was studying in the previous academic session.
- ii) A stipend is tenable on the usual conditions of good conduct and satisfactory progress. No stipend is granted to a student detained in a class. However, in case when a student subsequently passes the examination by appearing in the supplementary examination for the failed subject the educational stipend may be allowed.
- iii) The amount of stipend under the scheme is limited to actual tuition fee and $\frac{2}{3}^{\text{rd}}$ of hostel charges. The balance $\frac{1}{3}^{\text{rd}}$ of the hostel charges will be borne by the employers/workers. Hostel charges will be payable for the period of stay (excluding summer, puja and winter vacation) as certified by the Head of the Institutions/organizations.
- iv) The children who are interested to complete Diploma courses in Computer Science may apply for stipend under the educational stipend scheme on the existing terms and conditions provided that the Diploma Course should not be less than 2 years course and be conducted by recognized institutions/organizations.

e. MODE OF APPLICATION :

Application for stipend should be submitted in the stipulated form within one year from the date of commencement of an academic session during which the stipend is needed. In exceptional circumstances the delay in submission of application for stipend may be condoned by the Chairman/Dy. Chairman/Executive Director on merit basis.

f. APPLICATION FORM:

- i) Application form can be had from the Head Office, the Regional or the Sub-regional offices of the Tea Board free of cost.
- ii) Each item for which information is required in the form should be read carefully and filled in by the student or by his parent/guardian. The statement should then be verified by the Head of the Institutions/organizations in which the student is studying as also by the Manager of the Tea Estate in which the parent/s guardian/s is/are employed.
- iii) The original or a certified copy of the mark sheet in respect of the last annual examination for the elementary/middle/secondary/Higher Secondary/Pre-Degree/University Examination should be enclosed in the Application. A certificate from the Head of the Educational Institutions/organizations declaring that the institutions/organizations is not covered by the scheme of fee compensation grant of the State Government is necessary for grant of stipend.
- iv) Application complete in all respects from tea estates in North India and South India should be sent to the following addresses respectively.

The Welfare Liaison Officer (North),

**Tea Board,
14, Biplabi Trailokya Maharaj Sarani,
(Brabourne Road)
Kolkata – 700 001.**

**The Executive Director,
Tea Board,
'Shelwood'
Coonoor Library Road,
Post Box No. 6,
Coonoor – 643 101,
Nilgiris, South India.**

g. DISBURSEMENT OF STIPEND:

- i) All claim for stipends in respect of a tea estate are to be submitted in a consolidated bill form framed for the purpose. The form will be supplied free only to the Manger of a tea estate from the Board's Head Office in Kolkata as well as from the Regional Office at Coonoor.
- ii) Bills should be submitted in triplicate including an Acquittance Roll at the end of each quarter, along with evidence of actual payment of tuition fees and hostel charges like receipts issued by a School/college. Competent Authority may, however, relax the guidelines on case-to-case basis on genuine ground.
- iii) The amount of each bill will be sent to the Manager of the respective tea estate for disbursement to the guardians individually according to the Acquittance Roll and this Acquittance Roll is to be returned to the Board's Office after disbursement.
