



Request to withdraw order Regarding admissibility of Transport Allowance during lockdown period

1 message

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To: ceo@prasarbharati.gov.in, adg-admin@prasarbharati.gov.in, Dinesh Mahur <dmahur24@gmail.com>, adghrpb@prasarbharati.gov.in

ASSOCIATION OF RADIO AND TELEVISION ENGINEERING EMPLOYEES (ARTEE)

**Largest Employees Welfare Association of Electronic Media
WWW.arteeindia.org**

ARTEE/PB/2020/5/014
05-2020

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The Chief Executive Officer
Prasar Bharati Secretariat
Prasar Bharati House, Copernicus Marg,
New Delhi – 110001.

Sub: Request to withdraw PB OM No. D-13023/ 15/2019-20/GA-1/Part file Dated 05-05-2020.
Ref: PB OM No. D-13023/ 15/2019-20/GA-1/Part file Dated 05-05-2020.

Respected Sir,

With high respect we bring to your notice the aforesaid OM issued by Prasarbharati which will only result in more hardship to the employees during the distressing Covid19. ARTEE expresses strong protest and requests your kind self to withdraw this OM immediately.

This malicious and punishing order comes while the nation acknowledges the front line workers under the able leadership of our Honorable Prime minister.

As you are aware, the employees of AIR and DD, especially the engineering employees are working hard in this testing times to ensure that the National Broadcaster does the prime duty of informing and entertaining the public to equip the nation to fight the COVID- 19. The subordinate engineering staff are working round the clock throughout the length and breadth of the country including the remote and border areas for making AIR and DD as the most-watched media in the world. We are glad that you have since appreciated the employees for their dedication. But this order aims to punish these employees for their dedication and selfless service instead of honoring these employees who are the front line workers of Prasarbharati.

This order deliberately tries to deny available rights of the employees who serve the nation during a pandemic even risking their own life. Prasarbharati asked their offices to ensure the emergency and essential service of AIR and DD by employing minimum staff. The employees are attending shift duties regularly as per these guidelines. To ensure the transmission and maintenance of the emergency and essential services, the employees usually have to start their journey or reach back to their home during the odd hours. They also have to attend the office during normal hours as per the duty chart. It is a fact that a large number of employees do not possess own vehicle and so they rely on public transport

to reach the office during the normal hours. AIR and DD were not in the Essential service list provided by the State Governments to their officials. There are instances where the field offices failed to provide curfew passes and frequent police checks delayed the plying of private vehicles of the employees. This has forced those few employees who have their own vehicle to stop coming in their own vehicle as they feared the delay would cause damage to the institution. The Department has to provide an official vehicle to ensure the attendance of employees during unprecedented COVID 19 as the employees have no other means of public transport to reach the office. Now the department is penalizing the employees for ensuring smooth broadcast and higher TRP, though these employees could have sat at home by resorting to one pretext or the other when AIR and DD itself was asking people to 'stay home stay safe'.

Sir, this order is bad in law and tries to distort the DoPT guidelines and the CPC recommendations which were issued for normal circumstances where Public Transport is available. In the normal circumstances when public transport is available, the Transport Allowance is not admissible for an employee who is provided with free Government Transport. The employees who are bound to come during odd hours for performing their duty provide a facility for pick up and drop upon charging the prescribed rates. During the normal hours, the employee has to come of his own. During unprecedented circumstances like calamity, bandh, etc., the Department provides office vehicle as there is no public transport and the Department has to ensure that the work is not affected. So the available norms, precedents, presently followed procedures and rules are clear. We are unable to understand what was the need to issue this order quoting just the DoPT OM dated 7-7-2017 which is a general order for connected with the 7CPC. This order is totally unconnected or irrelevant in the abnormal situation where there is no public transport at all. It is imperative to say that the DoPT or the Ministry is yet to issue any order on the admissibility of allowances during the COVID-19 pandemic, If the PB issued this order with an aim to save money, they could have resorted to many other ways to plug the unnecessary expenditures instead of taking away rightful allowances of employees who have voluntarily contributed to the PM CARES fund.

At this juncture, This order shows the apathy of our administration and proves that someone who is not familiar with working conditions of AIR and DD is issuing illegal orders in the guise of the abnormal conditions. These types of orders demoralize the employees working in odd conditions. This order is against the spirit of encouragement of front line workers during this pandemic period.

Therefore considering the above facts we request your good self to kindly withdraw the order immediately.

With Highest Regards

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President
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