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PART - II

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(18 Magha 1944)

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT

(G.O. Ms. No. 01/2023-WCD(SW-IV)/203,
Puducherry, dated 13th January 2023)

NOTIFICATION

The Lieutenant-Governor of Puducherry is pleased to make the following rules to provide the Grant of Monthly Financial Assistance to Women who are Heads of Families Living Below Poverty Line (BPL) in the Union territory of Puducherry, namely:-

“Grant of Monthly Financial Assistance to Women who are Heads of Families Living Below Poverty Line (BPL) Rules, 2023”

2. This issues with the concurrence of the Finance Department *vide* their U.O.No. 21257/FC/FD/F5/A2/2022-23, dated 12-01-2023.

(By order of the Lieutenant-Governor)

P. MUTHU MEENA,
Under Secretary to Government
(Women and Child Development).

**GRANT OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO
WOMEN WHO ARE HEADS OF FAMILIES LIVING
BELOW POVERTY LINE (BPL) RULES, 2023.**

1. Short title, extent and commencement.— (1) These rules may be called the Grant of Monthly Financial Assistance to Women who are Heads of Families Living Below Poverty Line (BPL) Rules, 2023.

(2) They shall apply to the whole of the Union territory of Puducherry.

(3) It shall come into force from the date of its notification in the Official Gazette.

2. Object.— The object of the Scheme is to provide Monthly Financial Assistance to Women Heads of Families Living Below Poverty Line category so that women get a financial support and access to financial services such as credit sources, saving services, insurances, *etc.*, and can narrow gender gaps in poverty rates, enhance women's access to personal income and provide a lifeline for families.

3. Definitions.— In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “Appellate Authority” mean, the Secretary to Government in-charge of the Department;

(b) “Department” means, the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Puducherry, implementing the Scheme of Grant of Monthly Financial Assistance to Women Heads of Families under BPL category;

(c) "Woman" means, a woman being the Head of a Family between the age group 21 and 55 years belonging to a Below Poverty Line category Family Ration Card, but, does not include Woman availing any other monthly financial assistance or benefits from other Welfare Schemes implemented by various Government Departments now and then or from any other sources which are fully or partly funded by the Central or State Government;

(d) "Below Poverty Line" mean, a family who have been issued with Below Poverty Line (BPL) Category Family Ration Card by the Department of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Government of Puducherry;

(e) "Head of Family" means, a woman in the BPL Family Ration Card with the elder age within the age group from 21 to 55 years;

(f) "Director" means, the Director of Women and Child Development, Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Puducherry;

(g) "Government" means, the Administrator of the Union territory of Puducherry appointed by the President under Article 239 of the Constitution of India;

(h) "Union Territory" means, the Union territory of Puducherry;

(i) "Assistance" means, the financial assistance sanctioned under these rules;

(j) "Sanctioning Authority" means, the Director of Women and Child Development for grant of assistance;

4. Eligibility.— (1) The following shall be the eligibility conditions for grant of financial assistance under these rules,—

(a) A woman shall be a resident of the Union territory of Puducherry continuously for the past five years.

(b) She shall be the Head of a BPL Family Ration Card between the age group 21 and 55 years.

(c) She shall not receive any other financial assistance from any other sources, which are fully or partly funded by the Central or State Government.

(d) She shall not be an inmate of an institution or a home where free boarding and lodging is provided.

(2) When two or more women are enrolled in a BPL Family Ration Card, one woman Head of the particular BPL family at the elder age within the age group from 21 to 55 years shall be eligible for grant of financial assistance.

Provided in cases that a woman of other State included in the BPL Family Ration Card of Union territory of Puducherry, as Head of the Family and she shall be eligible only after five years of continuous resident in the Union territory of Puducherry from the date of inclusion of her name in the BPL Family Ration Card issued by the Department of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Puducherry.

5. Receipt and verification of BPL data.— (1) The Department of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Puducherry, shall provide the data of addition/deletion/modification of woman Head of a BPL family between the age group 21 and 55 years with Aadhaar number on monthly basis. Following which, the Implementing Department shall make necessary updation in the database, before making payment through Direct Benefit Transfer.

Provided that based on the projected population in the Union territory of Puducherry, the women eligible under the above Scheme shall vary every month and the number of eligible beneficiaries shall not be fixed and the financial implication shall also be vary from month to month.

(2) Even after such verification, if, the Director has a genuine doubt as to the woman's age/economic condition, he/she may conduct proper field level enquiry by all available channels.

6. Quantum of assistance.— The quantum of assistance shall be ₹ 1,000 (Rupees one thousand only) per mensem per woman Head of a BPL family, which shall be subject to enhancement by the Government from time to time.

7. Mode of payment.— (1) The monthly financial assistance shall be made through Direct Benefit Transfer directly into the Aadhaar linked Bank Account of the woman Head of a BPL family. The assistance shall become due for payment only on the expiry of the month to which it relates.

(2) The reconciliation statement shall be obtained from the sponsor Bank to ensure proper payment.

8. Stoppage and revival of grant.— (1) If, the grant has been sanctioned on mistaken grounds or on the strength of the particulars furnished by the woman in her application at Department of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Puducherry, which is proved to be false and untrue later or there is any material change in the condition of the woman which makes her ineligible for further payment, the grant shall be stopped forthwith.

(2) In case, grant has been sanctioned on the basis of wrong/false information given by the woman at the Department of Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Puducherry, the entire amount paid to her from the date of sanction is liable to be recovered. The individual is also liable to be prosecuted for furnishing wrong/false information deliberately.

(3) Before reviving the grant stopped under rule (1) above, the beneficiary shall submit proper justification before the Director, Department of Women and Child Development, Puducherry and a report in this regard shall be obtained from him/her, in which case also no arrears of payment shall be allowed.

(4) The Director shall be the Competent Authority to order stoppage and revival of payment under these rules.

Provided in case of stoppage, the beneficiary shall be informed the reason(s) for such stoppage.

9. Death of the Woman Head of Family.— In the case of death of the Woman Head of Family, the amount of financial assistance due to the woman head of family till the date of death, but, remains unpaid shall lapse. No person shall claim the unpaid amount of financial assistance, as the heir to the deceased Woman Head of Family.

10. Powers of the Director.— (1) The Director shall be the over all in-charge for implementing the Scheme in all the four regions of the Union territory of Puducherry.

(2) The Director shall be competent to order stoppage and revival of payment for any other reasons other than those mentioned under rule 8 above. The reasons for such stoppage or revival shall be recorded in writing.

11. Appeal.— Any person, aggrieved by any decision of the Director may prefer appeal to the appellate authority within thirty days from the date of the receipt of such decision.

12. Interpretation.— If, any doubt arises as to the interpretation of these rules, the same shall be referred to Secretary to Government, in-charge of the Department for decision, which shall be the final.

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