



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Protocol-Extension of Protocol Status to the dignitaries visiting the State - strict adherence to the norms laid down in the Protocol Manual - clarifications - Orders issued.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (POLITICAL) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms)No.236/2006/GAD.

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 23-08-2006.

ORDER

Though the Protocol Manual of the Government of Kerala had come into force in 1984, stipulating conditions and listing out the category of guests eligible for being treated as State Guest or Guest of Government, Protocol courtesies were being liberally extended to many visiting guests, irrespective of their Protocol Status.

2. The Protocol Manual of the State has clearly classified the dignitaries visiting the State into three categories for the purpose of extending Protocol status. They are:

(i) State Guests

2 (a) The following dignitaries are treated as State Guests when they visit the State, irrespective of the fact whether their visits are official or unofficial: -

- (i) The President of India
- (ii) The Vice-President of India
- (iii) The Prime Minister of India
- (iv) Governors of other States including Lt.Governors of Union Territories.

(b) The following dignitaries are treated as State Guests only when their visit is official:-

- (i) Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha.
- (ii) Cabinet Ministers, Ministers of State and Deputy Minister of Government of India.
- (iii) Leaders of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- (iv) Deputy Chairman and members of Planning Commission.
- (v) Chief Minister, Ministers and Deputy Ministers of other State Government and Union Territories (on a reciprocal basis).
- (vi) Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the Legislative Assemblies of States and Union Territories and Chairmen of Legislative Councils of States (on a reciprocal basis)
- (vii) Attorney General of India.
- (viii) Chief Justice of India and Judges of Supreme Court of India (for 5 days).
- (ix) Cabinet Secretary.
- (x) Comptroller and Auditor General of India
- (xi) Chief of Staff of the rank of full General.
- (xii) Chairman and Members of the Finance Commission.
- (xiii) Chairman and Members of UPSC
- (xiv) Chief Election Commissioner.
- (xv) Dignitaries of the rank of Union Cabinet Minister/Minister of State/Deputy Minister.
- (xvi) Chief Secretaries of other States.
- (xvii) Chief Justice of High Courts of other State (for 5 days on a reciprocal basis).
- (xviii) Foreign dignitaries recommended by the Government of India, the expenditure on whose visits is not debitable to the hospitality grant of the Government of India.

Any person other than those mentioned above may be treated as State Guest on the specific orders of the Government.

Families of the State Guest will also be treated State Guests while accompanying them. Family includes wife and children.

(ii) Guests of Government

Other Guests for whom security arrangements may not be normally necessary and whose visit would be beneficial to a particular Department or Departments of Government or to the Government in general may be treated as 'Guests of Government'. The Secretaries to Government of India, Leaders of Opposition in State Legislative Assemblies/Councils, and Chairman, Khadi and Village Industries Commission will be treated as Guests of Government. The Members of families and personal staff if any accompanying Guests of Government need be treated as Guest of Government only on specific orders of Government.

(iii) Paying Guest

Visitors not coming under the categories of State Guests and Guests of Government and persons of known status may be treated as Paying Guests under specific Orders of Government.

3. It has come to the notice of Government that there is a phenomenal increase in the number of dignitaries visiting the State for both official and private purpose who seek Protocol courtesies. Government have been extending Protocol facilities to majority of these Guests due to various reasons notwithstanding the provisions in relation to the classification of State Guests/Guests of Government in the Protocol Manual. This liberal attitude towards treating large number of Guests as being eligible for Protocol facilities has resulted in avoidable erosion of Government resources. Further many State Governments have of late, issued orders strictly limiting the Protocol facilities to category of Guests who fulfill conditions laid down in the respective protocol Manuals and to no one else..

4. In the circumstances, Government having considered all these factors in detail, are pleased to order strict adherence of the provisions in the Protocol Manual that:

- (i) State Guest/Guest of Government courtesies will be extended only as prescribed under the Protocol Manual
- (ii) Guests facilities will be extended to dignitaries visiting from other States strictly on reciprocal basis only.
- (iii) Protocol facility will be extended only to those functionaries specifically mentioned in the Manual and not to others claiming equivalent status.

5. These orders will take immediate effect.

(By Order of the Governor)

E.K.BHARAT BHUSHAN

Principal Secretary to Government

To

All Chief Secretaries of the States/Union Territories
All Principal Secretaries to Government
All Heads of Departments
All District Collectors
All Sections in the Secretariat
Private Secretary to Chief Minister
Private Secretaries to all Ministers
PA to Chief Secretary/Additional Chief Secretaries
PA to Principal Secretary, General Admn.Department
CA to State Protocol Officer
Additional State Protocol Officer

Forwarded/By Order,


SECTION OFFICER