

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Non Resident Keralites' Affairs Department-Annual Plan 1999-2000-Emergency Repatriation Fund-Scheme for the welfare of Non Resident Keralites-Administrative Sanction accorded-Orders issued.

NON RESIDENT KERALITES' AFFAIRS (A) DEPARTMENT

G.O. (MS) 2/99/NORKA

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 16.12.1999

O R D E R

The need for the creation of a fund for the repatriation of Keralities from abroad in times of emergent situations has been felt by the Government for a long time. There are several cases reported to Government where Keralite workers are forced to lead a life without food or adequate shelter and are denied wages for months and years in certain foreign countries. They somehow manage to escape from the clutches of the cruel employers to land only in further difficulties and turmoil unless helped either by philanthropic fellow citizens or by the Indian Embassy concerned. The case of Keralites who reach the foreign country cheated by recruiting agents or are refused by the sponsors later is also pathetic. They often get stranded and land up in jail. The bodies of those who died abroad and in whose cases the sponsors refuse to meet the expenses of transportation to native places or in case the next of kin are not in a sound financial position to bring the body home and the bodies thus kept in morgues abroad for months and in certain cases years together are also matters of serious concern. Yet another cases is that of persons who meet serious accidents and have to be rushed back to India for proper medical attention but do not have the financial resources to meet the expenses.

2. Government have found it appropriate to extend financial assistance in highly deserving cases of repatriation where the Non Resident Keralites and the dependents in the case of Keralites died abroad are not in a position to meet the expenses. Government are therefore pleased to order the constitution of a fund by name, 'Emergency Repatriation Fund' to be operated as per the guidelines annexed to this order.

3. Government are pleased to order also that in deserving cases where the guidelines cannot be followed as such, a Committee consisting of the Secretary to Government, Non Resident Keralites Affairs, the Secretary to Government, Finance (Expenditure) and the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department may relax the conditions and allow the assistance from the Fund on specific reasons to be recorded in writing.

4. The Expending for implementing the scheme will be met by debit to that of account' 2230-01-103-74 (Plan)'

By Order of the Government

C.RAMACHANDRAN
Principal secretary

All District Collectors
The Secretary to Government. Finance (Exp.) Department
The Secretary to Government, Revenue Department
The Accountant General (A&E), Audit, Thiruvananthapuram
The Principal Accountant General, (Audit) Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram. (This is issued with the concurrence of Finance Department)
The Finance Department- (Vide U.O.No. 64261/Exp B2/99/Fin Dt.23.7.99)
The Director of Public Relations
The Chief Executive Officer, Non Resident Keralites' Welfare Agency, Thiruvananthapuram
The Private Secretary of Chief Minister
The Revenue Department

Forwarded by Order

Sd/-

Section Officer

Annexe to G.O (MS) No.2/99/NORKA Dt 16/12/1999

Guidelines for the operation of the Emergency Repatriation Fund

a. Transportation of mortal remains:-

Assistance for transporting the mortal remains of Keralites who die abroad may be provided in extremely deserving cases under the scheme viz. 'Emergency Repatriation Fund' subject to the following conditions

- i. The deceased person shall not have stayed abroad for more than two years.
- ii. The annual family income of the deceased from all sources together prior to the death shall not have been more than Rs.50.000/- as certified by the Village Officer or the Secretary, Grama Panchayat/Municipality/Corporation.
- iii. The Embassy of India in the country of occurrence of death certifies that the Embassy is not in a position to meet the expenses and that the Embassy's efforts to persuade the sponsor to meet the expenses failed.
- iv. The legal heir/next of kin shall indemnify before Government that the deceased was not covered by any insurance scheme which would meet the cost of the transportation of body and allied expenditure and that in any case, any financial assistance or compensation is received on account of this, from any source, that amount subject to a maximum of the financial assistance extended by Government, will be remitted to government account.
- v. The expenses may include cost of embalming, coffin preparation and transportation as certified by the Embassy of India and shall be made available only to the Embassy of India or the Passport Office or the other Government Office as may be required by the Embassy

b. Repatriation of those seriously injured:-

Assistance for repatriating those in extremely serious physical condition following accidents and who have no financial resources to meet the expense may be provided under the scheme subject to the following conditions;

- i. The injured shall not have stayed abroad for more than two years.
- ii. The annual family income of the injured person from all sources together not be more than Rs.50,000/- as certified by the Village Officer/ Secretary, Grama Panchayat/Municipality/Corporation.
- iii. The Embassy of India in the country where the injured is hospitalised certifies that the Embassy is not in a position to meet the expenses the Embassy's efforts to persuade the sponsor to meet the expenses failed.
- iv. The hospital where the injured is undergoing treatment abroad certifies that he has to be repatriated for better medical treatment and that the transportation at that stage would not be a cause for aggravating the ailment.
- v. The injured person or in the event he is not physically capable, his legal next of kin shall indemnify before Government that the injured is not by any insurance scheme which would meet the cost of this transportation to the native place on account of the ailment caused by the injury and that in any case of financial assistance or compensation received from any source on account of this, that amount subject to a maximum of the financial assistance extended by the Government under the Scheme shall be remitted to Government account.
- vi. The cost of repatriation shall be limited to the airfare of the injured to the nearest airport in India and to and fro airfare of an accompanying person or medical attendant if it is certified by the hospital and attested by the Embassy that the person has invariably to accompany the patient.
- vii. The amount shall be placed only at the disposal of the Embassy of India or to the Passport Office or other Government Office as may be required by the Embassy of India.

c. Repatriation of stranded Non Resident Keralites:-

Non resident Keralites ladies employed abroad in the low paid categories of work cleaner and house maids abandoned by the sponsors or have fled from the employer having been harassed or assaulted and left with no means to meet the expenditure to return to the native place may be provided with financial assistance under the scheme limiting the amount to the cost of airfare to the nearest airport in Kerala and pocket expenses of Rs.500/-on the specific recommendation of the Embassy of India and own a certificate that the Embassy has no provision to meet the expenses. The amount in each case will be placed at the disposal of the Embassy of India or with any other Office as may be prescribed by the Embassy of India.