

GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
(CULTURAL AFFAIRS)

RESOLUTION

The 5th August 1976

Sub.: Pension to Indigent Artists

Life long indigence has been the fate of many artists of Orissa. Undeterred by adverse circumstances and lack of social recognition. They have pursued their arts with extraordinary devotion and singleness of purpose and have enriched the cultural heritage of the Oriya people. It is unfortunate that for many of our artists, the meager income of their active life disappears in their advanced years and they often are reduced to object penury unable to meet essential commitments and unable at times to obtain medical treatment to themselves and for members of their families.

2. The State Government have for sometime past, been giving some financial assistance to indigent artists, they do not propose to discontinue the scheme, but they believe, that funds under the scheme should be meant largely for providing relief in exceptional distress and to artists who may need occasional help. Artists with a record of noteworthy contribution, however, need continued support in their later years and assistance, however small should flow automatically and should neither be sporadic nor contingent on their furnishing several details each year.

3. Considering the funds available for the purpose, a regular scheme of pension to indigent artists can not include all deserving artists, but it could at least relieve some such artists of some of their worries on a continuous basis. This assistance in the view of the State Government is a token discharge of society for obligation to artists.

4. In pursuance of this objective, the State Government have formulated the following rules for administering a scheme of pension to indigent artists.

* The Department has been renamed as Tourism, Sports and Culture. later on to Tourism and Culture (Culture)

THE ORISSA PENSION TO INDIGENT ARTISTS RULES, 1976

(As amended upto 25.10.2011)

1. Short title and commencement-

- (1) These rules shall be called in the Orissa Pension to Indigent Artists Rules, 1976 (as amended up to 25.10.2011)
- (2) They shall come into force at once.

2. Determination of the number of pensioners – The Department of Tourism and Culture (Culture) having regard to availability of funds, determine the maximum number of pensioners under this scheme. The number of pensioners shall be 3000¹ It shall not until be increased in consultation with the Finance Department be exceeded in any year. The pension should be given to artists as per para 4 (V) only.

3. Procedure for selection of Pensioners- (1) immediately on the commencement of the Department of Tourism and Culture shall proceed to select pensioners in accordance with sub rules (2) to (5).

(2) (deleted and inserted² with)

“There shall be a Selection Committee under the chairmanship of the Minister-in-charge, Culture Department, Secretary, Odisha Sahitya Akademy, Secretary, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademy, Director, Handicrafts and another person acquainted with the State of Arts nominated by Minister shall be member. The Secretary of the Department shall also be the member. Director, Culture shall be the Member Secretary.”

Note -1 : No. of pensioners has been revised from time to time

- (a) 200 beneficiaries @ Rs.100/- P.M. vide G.O.No.4099/CA dt.5.08.1976.
- (b) 200 beneficiaries @ Rs.200/- P.M. Vide G.O.No.4580/SC dt.23.06.1981
- (c) 200 beneficiaries @ Rs.300/- P.M. Vide G.O.No.4939 dt.7.05.1992 w.e.f. 1.04.1991
- (d) 900 beneficiaries @ Rs.300/- P.M. Vide G.O.No.5304 dt.8.08.1997
- (e) 900 beneficiaries @ Rs.500/- P.M. Vide G.O.No.906 dt.3.03.2000
- (f) 1000 beneficiaries @ Rs.500/- P.M. Vide G.O.No.3115 dt.18.07.2003 (w.e.f. 2003-04)
- (g) 1500 beneficiaries @ Rs.1000/- P.M. Vide G.O.No.7450 dt.7.08.2008 (w.e.f. 1.04.2008)
- (h) 3000 beneficiaries @ Rs.1000/- P.M. Vide G.O.No.8988 dt.25.10.2011 (w.e.f.1.04.2011)

Notes-2 :

Vide G.O. No.6695 of 9.08.2011

- (3) The Committee shall consider the case of artists who have in the past been provided with financial assistance by Government or by any of the Akademies of the State and prepare a list of artists eligible to receive pension in accordance with rule 4. The Committee shall also be competent to include in the list names of artists who have not received any assistance in the past but who are eligible to get pension. The list shall not however exceed at any time the maximum number of pensioners determined in pursuance of rule-2.
- (4) The Committee may, if in its opinion it is necessary so to do authorize the Secretary of the Department (or the Director if there is a whole-time Director) to invite applications for pension from indigent artists through advertisement in newspapers. The particulars to be furnished by each applicant shall be as may be prescribed by the Committee.
- (5) The list prepared by the committee shall be submitted to Government and shall be final after receipt of their approval. Government may alter or modify the list submitted to them and such alterations and modification shall be incorporated in the list.

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4. **Conditions of eligibility :-** An artist, in order to be eligible to the pension, should –

- (i) be at least sixty years of age if a male and at least fifty years of age if a female.
Provided that the age-limit in either case is relaxable by a maximum of 10 years if the artist has been suddenly incapacitated by an injury or a physical handicap or a serious ailment resulting in premature withdrawal from active life. Further provided that the age limit is relaxable by a maximum 10 years in case of persons with creative arts.
- (ii) not be having income from whatever source, exceeding rupees forty eight thousand per annum ⁽³⁾.
- (iii) not be having a son or a daughter or a wife (a husband in case of a female artist) whose annual income is Rs.3,500/- or above.

- (iv) not have been convicted of any criminal offence.

Provided that the Government may having regard to the circumstances of each case waive this disability, if in their judgement the conviction was based on ground other than moral turpitude;

- (v) have made significant contribution to the literature music, dance and theatre of Odisha or to painting and sculpture.

provided that it shall be competent for the committee to consider cases of eminent contributors to the State's traditional trades based on skilled craftsmanship.

- (2) The Secretary of the Department shall be competent to cause necessary enquiries to ascertain the eligibility of an artists in terms of clauses (i) to (v) of sub-rule (1)

5. **Quantum of pension :** – The pension for each artist shall be Rs.1000 ⁽⁴⁾ per month

@ 5(A) The State may sanction pension to surviving spouse of the deceased indigent artists /writer/sports person at the same rate of pension as was being paid to the deceased artists / writers / sports persons in special circumstances like abject penury of the surviving widow /widower of the deceased pensioner.

6. **Sanction of Pension –**

- (1) On receipt of the approval of Government in pursuance of sub-rule (5) of rule 3, the Secretary of the Department shall sanction the pension.
- (2) The Secretary of the Department shall maintain a list of persons in whose favour pension has been sanctioned in a Register in Form P.I.A.A*.
- (3) Each sanction shall be recorded in the Register and a copy of the sanction order shall be sent to the Accounts Officer of the Directorate of Culture. The sanction order shall be in form PIAB*.

Note - (4): Vide G.O. No. 7450 dtd. 7.08.2008 w.e.f. 1.04.2008.

@ A new section 5 (A) was inserted to accommodate spouse case /family members of a deceased pensioner / indigent artist vide G.O. 316 of 14.01.1991.

- (4) The Accounts Officer of the Directorate of Culture shall on receipt of the sanction, register it in the Register of Payment in form P.I.A.C *.
- (5) The pension will be payable with effect from the date mentioned in the sanction order. It shall become due for payment only on the expiry of the month to which it relates.

7. **Procedure to be followed in the Directorate of Culture –**

- (1) The pension shall be paid without any authority from the Accountant General, Odiisha by the Accounts Officer by remittance to the pensioner by money order every month, the money order commission being borne by Government ⁵.
- (2) No payment will be made for a month unless the Money Order Acknowledgement has been obtained in respect of the payment for the previous month and a note to that effect recorded in the register in form PIAC or till satisfactory proof is available the the pension for the previous month has been paid to the correct person ⁶.
- (3) The Accounts officer shall check the Register inform P.I.A.C. at least once every month and sign the Register in token of his verification. He should bring to the notice of the Director cases in which the pension has remained unpaid for two months or more. Payment of pension in such cases shall remain suspended till the pensioner informs in writing the change in his address or the Director after necessary enquiries, orders resumption of payment. If, as a result of enquiries, it appears that the pensioner's address is different from that indicated in the sanction order the Director shall amend the Register in form P.I.A.C suitably. He should also inform the Secretary of the Department of the change who shall make suitable corrections in the Register in Form P.I.A.A. ⁷.

8. **Cancellation of the pension –** The pension granted to an indigent artist shall be cancelled.

- (i) On his death or
- (ii) On the satisfaction of Government that the information furnished to the Committee constituted in pursuance of sub-rule (2) of rule 3 was either erroneous or incomplete or

Note –(5) - The accounting procedure has been changed over to computerized processes since 2008-09.

(6) - This paragraph/section has been simplified with (Payment will be released through on line process vide payee's SB A/c opened in any State Bank of India in any branch of the State vide execution decision of Govt. in file)

(7) - This paragraph/section has been simplified like para-7(2)

- (iii) On the determination by Government that the pensioner has indulged in activities prejudicial to public interest or public order or
 - (iv) On his ceasing to have the disabilities referred to in clause (ii) and (iii) of rule 4.
9. The expenditure shall be debitable to Demand ⁽⁸⁾ No.32-2205 Social Security and Welfare – State Plan – State Sector – 60 – Other Social Security and Welfare Programmes -102-Pension under Social Security Schemes-1041- Pension to Indigent Artists-38008-Pension (voted).
- 10 In the month of April each year the pensioner shall furnish or the Director of the Accounts Officer life certificate in form P.I.A.D* . signed by a Member of Parliament or the State Legislature any Gazetted officer, a Chairman of a Municipality or Notified Area Council or a Chairman or a Panchayat Samiti. Such a certificate even if it is strictly not in form P.I.A.D, will be accepted if its contents serve the purpose.
- 11 Notwithstanding any thing contained in these rules, the State Government may in consultation with the F.D. in special circumstances relax the provision of these rules to remove hardship in really deserving cases.

By order of the Governor

(ILLEGIBLE)

Secretary to Government

Note –(8) : The earlier demand No.15-288-Social Security and Welfare-E-Other Social Security and Welfare Programmes-A-Pension –under Social Security Scheme-Pension to Indigent Artist (Voted) has been changed to this new demand No.

* Forms PIA(A), PIA (B), PIA (C) AND PIA (D) have been simplified with application of computer system. Hence deleted from the Rule