

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Relief and Welfare Department (Welfare Branch)
Writers' Buildings, Calcutta- 1

No. 7760-SW/5P-23/72

Dated. the 29th October, 1973

From: Shri S. B. Sarkar
Assistant Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal

To: The Accountant General, West Bengal

Sir,

I am directed, by order of the Governor, to say that for sometime past the Government have been providing the destitute physically handicapped persons with aids so as to enable them to earn their living independently. The Governor has now been pleased to approve of the West Bengal Prosthetic Aid Rules, 1973, a copy of which is enclosed herewith.

2. The charge for the current financial year is debitable to the head. "71-Miscellaneous-Other Miscellaneous Expenditure-Development Schemes Fourth Five-Year Plan-Social Welfare-Rehabilitation of the Handicapped-Prosthetic Aids" in the State Budget.

3. This order issues with the concurrence of the Finance Department vide their U.O. No. B-VIII/1652 dated 22.06.73

Yours faithfully

Sd/- S. B. Sarkar
Assistant Secretary

Rules for Prosthetic aids to the Physically Handicapped

1. These rules may be called the West Bengal Prosthetic Aids Rules, 1973.
2. In these rules unless the context otherwise requires:-
 - (a) 'Application' means an Application for Prosthetic Aids.
 - (b) 'Form' means a form as may be prescribed by the Government, in this behalf.
 - (c) 'Relation' means-
 - (i) Either of the parents
 - (ii) Husband, wife
 - (iii) Brother
 - (iv) Son, unmarried daughter

- (d) 'Income' means the income of the applicant for a Prosthetic Aid or of his relations.
3. (1) A person shall be entitled to receive Prosthetic Aids under these rules if he satisfies the following conditions. namely:-

(a) he/she or his/her parents or guardian has/have been a resident of West Bengal for not less than ten years on the date of making the application.

Note: The Government, however, reserve the right to relax the condition regarding residence mentioned in clause (a) under sub-rule (1), where the condition causes under hardship

(b) his/her income, if any, is not enough to enable him/her to procure the aids.

(c) his/her relations are unable to provide him/her with prosthetic aids required for his/her rehabilitation in normal social life.

(2) Professional beggars and mendicants shall not be eligible for prosthetic aids under these rules, but persons who are not actually beggars by profession but receive occasional assistance from some people will be entitled to receive Prosthetic Aids if otherwise eligible, with a view to helping them to rehabilitate themselves in the society.

4. (1) The Prosthetic Aids may be given only to the physically handicapped namely:-

- (i) Orthopaedically handicapped.
- (ii) Blind, and
- (iii) Deaf and Dumb

(2) The prosthetic aids shall be given in kind and not in cash. The following is the table of categories of handicapped and the articles to be given:-

Categories of handicapped	Articles to be given
(i) Orthopaedically handicapped	Artificial limbs, crutches, hand driven tri-cycle, etc.
(ii) Blind	Harmonium (for vocalists of ability). books (braille system), and other articles suitable for the blind, etc.
(iii) Deaf and Dumb	Hearing aids, etc.

Note: In addition to the articles mentioned in clauses (i-iii) under sub-rules (2) above all the aforesaid categories of persons either male or female will be eligible for receiving books for their education and any other articles, appliances which may be required for their economic rehabilitation.

5. (1) Application forms may be obtained free of cost from the office of the District Magistrate concerned by those persons who reside outside the area comprising Calcutta Postal Zone. Persons residing within the Calcutta Postal Zone may obtain the application forms free of cost from the office of the Director of Social Welfare, Writers' Buildings, Calcutta, West Bengal.

(2) An application for Prosthetic Aids should be submitted in the prescribed form addressed to the District Magistrate or the Director of Social Welfare, Writers' Buildings, Calcutta as the case may be.

6. (1) On receipt of an application, the District Magistrate shall cause it to be enquired into as early as possible, and shall forward, after due consideration, the application along with the enquiry report and with specific recommendation to the Director of Social Welfare, West Bengal, for final orders.

(2) In respect of applications received from persons residing in the Calcutta Postal Zone, the Director of Social Welfare, West Bengal, Writers' Buildings, Calcutta shall get the particulars verified and issue final orders.

7. (1) In the districts, the District Magistrate will be the drawing and disbursing Officer in respect of the aids sanctioned.

(2) In the areas covered by the Calcutta Postal Zone, the Director of Social Welfare, will be the sanctioning as well as the drawing and disbursing Officer.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in rules 5 and 6. Govt. may *suo moto* receive and consider an application for Prosthetic Aids without any reference to the District Magistrate or the Director of Social Welfare, West Bengal and if satisfied that the applicant is eligible for Prosthetic Aids, sanction Aids.

(4) The decision of the Government in all cases shall be final.

8. All Prosthetic appliances may not be available in the district towns. So eligible applicants shall have to come to Calcutta for giving specifications / measurements and taking delivery of the articles. As it is not possible for all candidates to collect passage money, the same should be provided by Government at rates admissible to the lowest paid Government employees, if necessary.

9. Prosthetic Aids may be given to those persons only whose future rehabilitation is possible by means of aids. So, the physically handicapped persons applying for Prosthetic Aids shall have to enclose a certificate from a Medical Officer of the West Bengal Health Service with his/her application. The certificate should contain information regarding the nature of handicapped or disability and the aids suitable to him/her.

FORM OF MEDICAL CERTIFICATE FOR GRANT OF PROSTHETIC AID

Certified that I have examined Shri/Smt./Kumari -----

aged about ----- son/wife/daughter of -----

of (address) -----

today and have found that Shri/Smt./Kumari -----

is blind/deaf and dumb/orthopaedically handicapped, such handicap being confined to

his/her -----

The impairment is reportedly congenital/caused by injury or disease and in my opinion the impairment is such as is not likely to respond to medicine, physiotherapy or remedial exercise.

I believe that the grant of a -----

will increase his/her efficiency in performing his/her personal and social obligations.

Signature / L. T. I. of person ----- is attested.

*Signature of Medical Officer**

Signature / L. T. I. of person examined

Office Seal

* No certificate shall be accepted as valid unless granted by a Medical Officer of the West Bengal Health Service.

