

BROAD OUTLINES & OBJECTIVES

1. **ASHRAY** – ‘Ashray’ is a housing scheme of the Govt. of West Bengal in the department of Panchayats & Rural Development Department to provide houses to the poor/ economically weaker section in the rural areas. The scheme will be implemented through the Panchayats.
2. **OBJECTIVES** – The objectives of ‘Ashray’ is primarily to help construction of dwelling houses in the rural areas by providing them a lump sum financial assistance.
3. **FUND PATTERN** – The entire fund under the scheme is provided by Govt. of West Bengal.
4. **TARGET GROUP** – The target group of the houses under ‘Ashray’ are deserted and destitute women/men, widow with no major son, victims of trafficking, physically & mentally challenged persons, old and infirm persons who have their own land for the construction of houses. They may not be in the existing BPL list but eligible to be included in the BPL list. The beneficiary should have own land including land received through Patta, occupier of government land and is eligible to receive patta & the land is fit for habitation but such patta has not been received, occupies private land for at least 15 years with written permission of the owner.
5. **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME** – The programme will be implemented through the Panchayat Bodies and houses will be constructed by the beneficiaries themselves.
6. **IDENTIFICATION OF THE BENEFICIARIES** – a) The beneficiary will be identified by the Gram Panchayat @ 5 houses per Gram Panchayat as per criteria mentioned in para (4). b) Zilla Parishads will select 3245 beneficiaries on the basis of the following para-meters :
 - i. The beneficiaries who became homeless due to construction of PMGSY Scheme or other development scheme implemented by the PRI.

- ii. The beneficiaries who became homeless due to natural calamity like earthquake, cyclone etc. The details of physical target of Zilla Parishads are given in the annexure. If Zilla Parishad/Mahakuma Parishad does not find adequate no. of beneficiary, they may distribute the target among the best performing Gram Panchayats.
- i) The Gram Panchayats must complete selection of the beneficiaries by 15th November '09 and send the same to the Zilla Parishads through respective Panchayat Samities by 30th November '09. If any Gram Panchayat fails to select the beneficiaries within the stipulated date, concerned Panchayat Samiti will select the beneficiaries from that particular Gram Panchayat area by December 15th and send it to Zilla Parishads. The Zilla Parishads will select the beneficiaries as per their target by 31st December '09 positively. The list of beneficiaries will have to be approved in GP meeting and in the meeting of the concerned Sthayee Samiti of ZP/PS.
- ii) After receipt of the lists from the Gram Panchayats – the Panchayat Samiti will verify the genuineness of the status of the beneficiaries selected by the Gram Panchayats as per guideline before submitting the same to the Zilla Parishads.
- iii) After receiving the list from Gram Panchayats/ Panchayat Samities, Zilla Parishads will allot fund to the respective Panchayat Samities as the case may be and approve the list sent by Panchayat Samities.
- 7) (i) **CREDIT OF FUND** – Fund for scheme will be credited in the L.F. account of the Zilla Parishad/Mahakuma Parishad and Panchayat Samities.
- 8) **ALLOTMENT OF HOUSES** – Allotment of dwelling units should be made in the name of the women, head of the household widow, wife or the husband jointly unless there is no adult woman member in the family.

- 9) **UNIT COST FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES** – The unit cost under ‘Ashray’ for construction of new houses will be as follows :

Construction of new houses	
Plain Area	Hilly/Difficult area
Rs. 35,000/-	Rs. 38,500/-

- 10) **DISBURSEMENT** - The unit cost will be disbursed in the two equal instalments to the beneficiaries through cheque as per IAY guidelines. For this purpose each beneficiary will have to open a Saving Bank A/c in a schedule commercial bank for the purpose of credited the amount. After disbursement of the 1st instalment of Rs. 17,500/- or Rs. 18,750/- as the case may be, the 2nd instalment will be disbursed after proper checking of the progress of the construction by the Resource Persons(RPs) as per the guidelines circulated for IAY.

After disbursement of the 2nd instalment the Resource Persons(RPs) will again visit and submit report status of the construction of the houses.

The 1st & 2nd instalments of fund will be disbursed at the Panchayat Samity level on a date so fixed as in case of IAY beneficiaries vide Order No. 4906/RD/IAY/17S-04/06 dated 20th July, 2009. Zilla Parishads will also prepare the cheques in respect of the beneficiaries selected by them and disbursement should be done at the Panchayat Samity level on the date fixed.

- 11) **INVOLVEMENT OF THE BENEFICIARIES** – The beneficiaries should be involved in the construction of houses. They will make their own arrangement for procurement of construction materials, engage skilled workmen and contribute family labour. The beneficiaries will have complete freedom in this regard. The plinth area of the houses should not be less than 20 sq.m. i.e. 215 sq.ft. The house should be designed keeping in the view the climatic condition and need to provide ample space, kitchen, ventilation, sanitary facility, smokeless chulas, etc. The barrier free concept may be adopted in the house meant for the physical

challenged to facilitate their smooth and free movement in the house. However, the construction should be pucca in nature so that during natural calamity like flood, etc. the same is not damaged.

- 12) **CONSTRUCTION OF SANITARY LATRINE & SMOKELESS CHULAS** – The unit cost does not consist of the fund for construction of sanitary latrine. Sanitary Latrine should be constructed out of Total Sanitation campaigning programme. It is desirable that the beneficiaries have installed smokeless chulas in their newly constructed houses.
- 13) **MAINTENANCE OF ACCOUNT** – Separate subsidiary Cash Book will have to be maintained at Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samities level. The account must be Audited after closing of financial year and finalized account of the previous year shall be got approved by the General Body of the concerned Zilla Parishad/ Panchayat Samiti.
- 14) **DISPLAY BOARD** – Completion of the dwelling unit should not take more than two years. On completion of the dwelling unit the Zilla Parishads/Gram Panchayats/Panchayat Samities should ensure that for each house a display board is fixed indicating the name of the scheme, year of construction, name of the beneficiaries, fund utilized etc. and the cost of display board will be borne by the beneficiaries themselves.
- 15) **MONITORING** – Each Gram Panchayat will take necessary action for inspection of 100% houses through Resource Persons(RPs) attached to the Gram Panchayats and submit report to the concerned Gram Panchayat. Likewise officers of Districts, Sub-Divisions and Block Level must closely monitor all aspects of Ashray programme through visit to the worksite. Block Level officials will visit at least 15% of the total houses sanctioned for that Block area, District officials specially Secretary, Zilla Parishad and Deputy Secy. Zilla Parishad will visit at least 2% of the total houses sanctioned and submit report to the Zilla Parishads. A monthly progress report is to be furnished through e-mail/Fax in the proforma to be prescribed subsequently on and before 10th of every successive month.

- 16) **EVALUATION** – State Government in Housing Department/ Panchayats & Rural Development Department may conduct periodical evaluation of status on the implementation of ‘Ashray’ programme. The evaluation of status may be conducted by reputed institutions/organizations.
- 17) **TRANSPARENCY IN IMPLEMENTATION** – For the greater transparency in implementation of programme, following steps should be taken by the Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samities and Zilla Parishads/Mahakuma Parishads.
- a) Gram Panchayat will notify the list of beneficiaries with Father/Husband’s name, address in the Gram Panchayat Notice Board positively. The Panchayat Samities and Zilla Parishads/ Mahakuma Parishadswill up-load the particulars of the selected beneficiaries in the Zilla Parishad website and also in the website of P & RD Deptt.
 - b) The format for monthly report (physical & financial), utilization certificate and proposal for getting further instalment are being issued separately.