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Government of West Bengal
Department of Panchayats & Rural Development
Joint Administrative Building, Block HC-7, Sector- III, Salt Lake,
Kolkata -700106.

No. 1171 /PRD-40027/1/2018-BUDGET SEC

Date: 10/03/2026

ORDER

Sub: Grant of Interest-free Festival Advance to the PRI Bodies employees for the year 2025-26

The undersigned is directed by order of the Governor to say that the regular employees of ZillaParishads/Siliguri Mahakuma Parishad, Panchayat Samitis and Gram Panchayats and the regular employees of DRD Cell of ZillaParishads/SMP/GTA whose revised emoluments as on 31st March, 2026 exceeded Rs.46,000/- per month but did not exceed Rs.54,000/- per month who apply for interest-free festival advance, may be granted an advance up to a maximum of **Rs.22,000/-** (Rupees Twenty Two Thousand) only during the ensuing festival.

2. The benefit of interest-free festival advance may also be allowed to (a) the whole time piece rated workers, either permanent or temporary and (b) the employees belonging to work charged/contingent establishments. Such employees drawing revised emoluments exceeding Rs.46,000/- per month but not exceeding Rs 54,000/- per month on 31st March, 2026 may be allowed to draw the interest free festival advance of **Rs.22,000/-** only, if they apply for the same.

3. In case of the employees falling under para (2) above, the authority sanctioning the advance shall certify after being satisfied that the employee is likely to continue in service until the recovery is completed.

4. The advance sanctioned herein will be recovered from the salary of the employees concerned in not more than 10(Ten) monthly instalments. If the amount of advance is exactly divisible by ten, it will be recovered in ten equal monthly instalments. If not, the figure obtained by dividing the amount by Ten should be rounded off to the nearest rupees which will be the amount of each of the first nine monthly instalments, and the balance will be recovered in the tenth monthly instalment. The same method of calculation will apply mutatis-mutandis where the advance will be repaid in less than ten instalments. The recovery of the advance sanctioned under this order will begin either from the salary of the employees for the month of November, 2026 or from the salary for the month following the month in which the advance is drawn, whichever is later. However, recovery in all cases should be completed by the 31st August, 2027, at the latest.

5. The employees of ZillaParishad/ Siliguri Mahakuma Parishad, Panchayat Samities and Gram Panchayats and the employees of DRDC of ZPs/SMP/GTA who will leave/ retire from the service on a date after issue of this order but before 1st November, 2026 will not be allowed any festival advance. However, an employee who will retire after 1st November 2026 will be eligible for interest-free festival advance sanctioned in this order subject to the condition the recovery should be completed on or before the month of superannuation.

6. (a) Persons who entered into service under the ZillaParishads/SiliguriMahakurnaParishad, Panchayat Samitis and Gram Panchayats and DRDC of ZPs/SMP/GTA for the first time after 31st March, 2026 but before 1st October, 2026 and who are not eligible to get the benefit of Ad-hoc bonus for the year 2025-2026 will be entitled to the benefit of interest free-festival advance as sanctioned above subject to fulfilment of the terms and condition laid down in this order. Their emoluments for the purpose of payment of advance will be determined on the basis of their emoluments at the time of entry into service.

(b) The benefit of interest-free festival advance sanctioned above will also be admissible to the employees of ZillaParishads/SiliguriMahakumaParishad, Panchayat Samitis, Gram Panchayats and DRDC of ZPs/SMP/GTA who have been appointed on regular or contract basis provided they are not eligible to draw ad-hoc bonus on pro-rata basis sanctioned for the accounting year 2025-2026 and provided their regular or contract emoluments did not exceed Rs.54,000/- per month.

7. The benefit of interest-free festival advance sanctioned above will also be admissible to the Confidential Assistants to the Sabhadhipaties belonging to temporary establishment of the Zilla Parishads/ Siliguri Mahakuma Parishad.

8. The term 'emoluments' in the case of employees drawing pay and allowances in the un-revised scale, will include basic pay, personal pay, special pay, specialist pay, dearness pay, dearness allowances, deputation (duty) allowance and special allowance (additional remuneration). For the employees who are drawing pay in the revised scale the term 'emoluments' will mean basic pay drawn in the applicable Level in the Pay Matrix, dearness allowance and non-practicing allowance, if any.

9. Application for interest-free festival advance on the strength of this order by the employees of three tiers PR Bodies and the employees of DRDC of ZPs/ SMP/GTA shall be made in case of Muslim employees before the Festival of EID-UL-FITR and in case of other than Muslim employees should be made between 28.09.2026 to 01.10.2026.

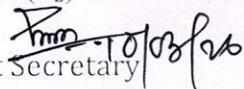
10. The expenditure incurred for payment of interest-free festival advance to the employees of ZillaParishads/SiliguriMahakumaParishad, Panchayat Samitis and Gram Panchayats and the employees of DRD Cell of ZPs/ SMP/GTA will be debited from the provision made during the current financial year 2025-2026 under the concerned salary head of account of the aforesaid employees of the three tiers of Panchayati Raj Bodies viz:-

- i) "012-Grants-in-aid/contributions to the ZillaParishads Contribution towards salaries of the employees of the ZillaParishads [PN]-V-36-Grants-in-aid-Salaries-00",
- ii)"010-Grants-in-aid/contribution to Panchayat Samitis-Contribution towards salaries of the employees of Panchayat Samitis [PN]-V-36-Grants-in-aid-Salaries-00",
- iii)"004- Contribution towards salaries of Employees of Gram Panchayats [PN]-V-36-Grants-in-aid-Salaaries-00"

Under head of account Administrative Expenditure "2515-Other Rural Development programmes-00-101-Panchayati Raj-00" in the current financial year.

iv) The expenditure incurred for payment of interest-free festival advance to the employees of DRD Cells of ZillaParishads/ MahakumaParishad/ DGHC will be met from the provisions for salaries of the said employees received in the designated bank accounts by the respective ZillaParishads/ MahakumaParishad/GTA from the State Government as well as the Government of India in the current financial year.

11. This order issues in terms of Finance Department Memo No. 813-F(P₂) Dated-27.02.2026

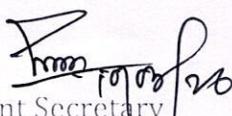

Joint Secretary
to the Government of West Bengal

No. 1171/1(10)-PRD-40027/1/2018-BUDGET SEC

Date: 10/03/2026

Copy forwarded for information to:-

- 1) The Principal Accountant General (A&E), West Bengal, Treasury Building, Kolkata-700001.
- 2) The Principal Accountant General (Audit), West Bengal, Treasury Building, Kolkata-700001.
- 3) The Accountant General (L.B.A), West Bengal, CGO Complex, MSO Building DF—Block, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700064.
- 4) The Examiner of Local Accounts, CGO Complex, MSO Building DF —Block, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700064.
- 5) The Finance (Budget) Department of this Government.
- 6) The Finance Department (Group-G), of this Government.
- 7) The Finance Department (Group-P), of this Government.
- 8) The Director of Treasuries & Accounts. New India Assurance Building, 4, Lyons Range Kolkata 700001.
- 9) F.A. of P&RD Department.
- 10) Computer Cell of this Department for uploading this G.O. to the website.


Joint Secretary
to the Government of West Bengal

No. 1171/2(250)-PRD-40027/1/2018-BUDGET SEC

Date: 10/03/2026

Copy forwarded for information to:-

1. The District Magistrate, _____ (All)
2. The Executive Officer, _____ Zilla/Mahakuma Parishad,
P.O. _____ Dist _____ (All)
3. The Secretary, _____ Zilla/Mahakuma Parishad,

P.O. _____ Dist _____

(All)

4. The District Panchayat & Rural Development Officer,

(All)

5. The Sub-Divisional Officer _____

(All)

6. The Block Development Officer, _____

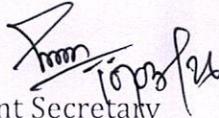
P.O. _____ Dist. _____

(All)

7. Treasury Officer, _____

(All)

8. The Guard File of Cell-II/ III/ V of this Department.


Joint Secretary

to the Government of West Bengal

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