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PART I—Orders and Notifications by the Governor of West Bengal, the High Court, Government Treasury, etc.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Technical Education, Training and Skill Development Department
Karigari Bhawan B/7, Action Area-III, New Town, Rajarhat,
Kolkata-700160

NOTIFICATION

No. 1/493734/2024

Dated, Kolkata, the 7th March, 2024

It has been under the consideration of the State Government to introduce a scheme for Financial Assistance to Apprentices of West Bengal to promote skill development and employment of the youth of West Bengal. Now I am directed by order of the Governor to set down the guideline for its implementation.

1. **Short Title:** The Scheme for Financial Assistance to Apprentices of West Bengal shall be called "The West Bengal Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (WB-APS)".
2. **Objective:** The West Bengal Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (WB-APS) aims to enhance the Apprenticeship Training, by providing financial support to apprentices and promoting skill development and employment of the youth of West Bengal. The scheme will not only make apprenticeships more attractive but also contribute to the State's economic development by involving more and more youth with training and employment.
3. **Commencement of Scheme:** The scheme would come into effect from the financial year 2024-25. It shall be a continuous scheme.
4. **Financial Assistance:** The State Government aims to encourage more youths to participate in apprenticeship programs and gain practical skills and become employed and proposing to provide financial assistance for the same in the form of additional stipend. The Apprentices are engaged as per the provision of the Apprenticeship Act and a minimum stipend of Rs. 5000/- (which increases for higher qualification) is to be paid to the Apprentices by the Industry/Establishments as per provision of the Act. One Central Scheme reimburses 25% of the stipend (with a ceiling of Rs. 1500/- per trainee per month). The State Govt. is proposing to provide additional stipend over the stipend provided by the Industry. The additional stipend would provide additional financial assistance to apprentices to cover their basic needs during the training period, including accommodation, transportation, and daily meals. The quality of training and post training employment of apprentice trainees is considered at par with candidates

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motivation to the youths of the State to get good quality training and employment and to contribute to the States industrial growth. An eligible apprentice trainee of West Bengal shall be entitled to get a financial assistance of Rs 1500/- per month if engaged in industries within West Bengal and Rs 2500/- per month if engaged outside the state of West Bengal.

5. **Eligibility:** Trainees passing out of Vocational Training Centres run in schools and Madrasas, students passing out from Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and Polytechnics and from amongst those registered under Yuvashree Scheme and any fresh candidates who is eligible to be employed as an apprentice with schooling of at least five years from the affiliated institutions within West Bengal will be eligible for the additional stipend.
6. **Duration of Support:** Apprentice trainees who will start apprenticeship training in the fiscal year 2024-25 will be eligible for the additional stipend for the entire duration of their apprenticeship up to a maximum of one year. This support will be available to each eligible apprentice once in the lifetime.
7. **Implementation of the Scheme:** The scheme shall be implemented by Department of Technical Education, Training & Skill Development, WB on the basis of data obtained from the Scheme portal. A dedicated portal will be developed to facilitate the direct benefit transfer (DBT) to the apprentices from this Scheme.
 - (i) **Registration:** Mandatory registration on the web portal is required to avail additional stipend benefits. This portal would be integrated with Gol portal for necessary data exchange.
 - (ii) **Additional Stipend Payment:** The State Government will pay the additional stipend directly to the trainee's bank account through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
 - (iii) **Nodal Officer:** The Director of Industrial Training & e.o. State Apprenticeship Advisor will be the nodal officer responsible for implementing the Scheme (WB-APS).
 - (iv) **Supporting Agencies:** ADM (Skill), Officers of the Directorate of Employment service and Principal Govt. ITIs designated as Additional/Joint/Deputy/Assistant/Sub-Assistant Apprenticeship Advisor, will extend necessary support for industry/MSME/Establishment registration in the apprenticeship scheme portal, engagement and supervision of apprentice trainees.
 - (v) **Publicity:** The WB-APS will be widely publicized among industries, establishments, MSMEs, skilled youths, and all other stakeholders through various communication channels.

The Scheme will be operated through an Head of Account existing under Utakarh Bangla Scheme "2203-Technical Education-00-003-Training-00-State Development Scheme-003- Grants to Paschim Banga Society for Skill Development for implementation of Skill Development Mission [ET]-31-Grants-in-aid-General-02-Other Grants" pertaining to Demand No. 51 (51-2203-00-003-00-003-31-02).

This issues with the approval of the Finance Department vide U.O. No:-Group-B-2023-2024-0311 Date-27-02-2024 and approval of the Cabinet vide No. 953 dated 06.03.2024

By order of the Governor.

ANOOP KUMAR AGRAWAL
Principal Secretary to the Government of West Bengal