

THE HIGH COURT OF ORISSA : CUTTACK

NOTIFICATION

No. 159 /A : Pursuant to the direction given in the Judgment dated 04.01.2024 by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in W.P.(C) No. 643 of 2015 (*All India Judges' Association Vs. Union of India and Ors.*), the Committee for Service Conditions of the District Judiciary (in short CSCDJ) constituted by the Hon'ble Acting Chief Justice of the Court, formulate the following Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for proper implementation of the recommendations of the SNJPC, including pay, pension, allowances and all allied matters and to facilitate settlement of claims and disbursal of allowances as approved by the Hon'ble Apex Court, including the payment of arrears of salary and pension to judicial officers, pensioners and family pensioners of the State.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP)

1. The State Government in Law Department with concurrence of Finance Department shall come up with the Resolution/Notification as the case may be, **within 7 days of receipt** of the recommendation of the CSCDJ on each allowances and facilitate for implementation of the recommendations of the SNJPC as accepted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
2. While formulating Resolution/Notification on each allowance, the effective dates, as recommended shall be distinctly mentioned and the major/minor head of Accounts from which the current and arrear claims/allowances be drawn/reimbursed shall be mentioned.
3. For drawal of the arrear salary/allowance/retiral & pensionary benefits within the stipulated dateline as fixed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, Law Department/Home Department in consultation with Finance Department, Govt. of Odisha shall timely place sufficient funds in appropriate head of accounts at the disposal of respective C.Os, Spl. C.Os, Heads of Department /DDO for the purpose. If required, funds may also be made available by resorting to the process of re-appropriation of available savings with the concerned departments in a time bound manner.

4. The arrear salary/retiral & pensionary benefits, if any, to any serving judicial officer/pensioner/family pensioner has not been disbursed by their respective Heads of Department/DDO as per previous orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, it shall be paid with immediate effect and compliance reports be submitted to the Registrar General of the Court for onward submission before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
5. The judicial officer/pensioner/family pensioner shall not be harassed in any form by any authority in the smooth release of their service entitlements including salary & allowance /retiral & pensionary benefits.
6. For smooth disbursement of salary, allowances, arrears and other service and retiral benefits, the following Government Authorities are hereby declared as Nodal Agency;
 - (i) Chief Secretary, Govt. of Odisha
 - (ii) Principal Accountant General (A & E), Odisha, Bhubaneswar
 - (iii) Addl. Chief Secretary, Home Department, Govt. of Odisha
 - (iv) Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Govt. of Odisha
 - (v) Principal Secretary, Law Department, Govt. of Odisha
 - (vi) Registrar General, High Court of Orissa
 - (vii) Principal Secretary, Works Department, Govt. of Odisha
 - (viii) Registrar (Administration), High Court of Orissa
 - (ix) Registrar (Judicial), High Court of Orissa
 - (x) Commissioner-Cum-Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Govt. of Odisha
 - (xi) Director of Treasury & Inspection, Govt. of Odisha
 - (xii) District Judges of all the 30 Judgeships
 - (xiii) Heads of Department of all the Courts/Offices/Institutions of the Government where Judicial Officers are working or have worked on deputation.

The above authorities shall see that the disbursement on account of arrears of salary, pension and allowances due and payable to judicial officers, retired judicial officers and family pensioners shall be computed and paid on or

before **29th February, 2024** as directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Para. 87 of the Judgment.

The Registry of the Court shall prepare the contact details of these Nodal Agencies at the District Level and State Level and upload the SOP in the website of the High Court, together with the details of the nodal officers.

7. The judicial officer/pensioner/family pensioners, if having any, grievance/issues with regards to release of their arrear salary/retiral & pensionary benefits from the side of the concerned Heads of Department/DDO/Treasury shall be brought to the notice of the CSCDJ in writing either through the Nodal Officer of the Committee or the Registrar General of the Court for timely redressal of the same.
8. One permanent grievance redressal cell for the judicial officer/pensioner/family pensioners shall function in the Appointment Section of the Court with such number of Staff as would be decided by the Chief Justice to receive, process only the grievances/issues in the matters of pay, pension, retiral benefits and arrears thereof of the judicial officer/pensioner/family pensioners.
9. The permanent grievance redressal cell shall prepare and maintain a database of retired Judicial Officers and family pensioners of the District Judiciary with a process for periodical updating, at least on a quarterly basis and the same be uploaded in the website of the Court. The Central Project Coordinator (CPC) of the Court shall provide all technical and IT related support to the cell.
10. The copy of the above SOP shall be communicated to all concerned for their information and future guidance.

By order of the Court

25/01/2024
Registrar General