

All Departments/All sections of the Government Secretariat (including Law and Finance).

The Secretary, Kerala Legislature Secretariat.

All Heads of Departments.

All District Collectors.

The Principal Accountant General (Audit), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Accountant General (A & E), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Advocate General, Emakulam/Thiruvananthapuram Branch (with C/L).

The Registrar, Kerala High Court (with C/L).

The Secretary, Kerala Public Service Commission, Thiruvananthapuram (with C/L).

The Secretary to Governor, Kerala Raj Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram (with C/L).

The Registrar, Kerala Administrative Tribunal, Thiruvananthapuram (with C/L).

The State Chief Information Commissioner (with C/L).

All Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries/Secretaries/Special Secretaries/Additional Secretaries/Joint Secretaries/Deputy Secretaries/Under Secretaries to Government.

The Additional Secretary to Chief Secretary.

The Registrar, All Universities (with C/L).

The Private Secretary to Speaker/the Private Secretary to Deputy Speaker of the legislative Assembly.

The Private Secretary to Chief Minister and all other Ministers.

The Private Secretary to Government Chief Whip.

The Private Secretary to the Leader of Opposition.

The Heads of all Public Sector Undertakings.

The Heads of all Co-operative Institutions.

The Heads of all autonomous bodies and other Semi-Government institutions.

10711 GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

17 APR 2013

Abstract

GAD—ESTT.—INTRODUCTION OF A NEW CATEGORY IN STATE GOVERNMENT SERVICE CALLED "DRIVER-CUM-OFFICE ATTENDANT" AND FIXING OF NEW NORMS REGARDING THE PURCHASE AND USE OF VEHICLES IN GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES—SANCTION ACCORDED—ORDERS ISSUED

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (SERVICES—C) DEPARTMENT

G. O. (Ms.) No. 72/2013/GAD. Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 14th March, 2013.

Read.—Judgment dated 26-6-2012 of the Hon'ble High Court in WA No. 505/2011 filed by Sri Unni Jose K. Joy.

ORDER

In the Judgment read above, dismissing the WA No. 505/2011 filed by Sri Unni Jose K. Joy against judgment dated 18-3-2011 in WP (c) No. 17244/2010, the Hon'ble High Court has concluded that it is high time Government should consider the requirement of Drivers in every office to drive light vehicles because vehicles are given for the use by Officers, they could be made to drive, more so when modern vehicles provide better comforts in the driver seat and in the other front seat. Most of the drivers are effectively employed only for half an hour to one hour a day and all the remaining time they will be sitting idle. Therefore there will be nothing wrong in combining the post of driver with that of peon so that unnecessary expenditure in retaining two posts could be avoided.

2. The Hon'ble High Court has also directed the Chief Secretary to Government to take policy decision with regard to the necessity of providing vehicles to Government Servants because if vehicle allowance is given, everybody otherwise owning and using private vehicles could be allowed to use their vehicles for official use also and get compensatory allowance. Secondly, in the era of hi-tech vehicles providing comfort in the driver seat, there will be nothing wrong in Government asking the officers, atleast up to a level, to drive

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the "values by themselves which is gone in all advanced countries. Lastly, the Court has suggested that policy decision should be taken with regard to the type and level of functionalities in Government and in autonomous bodies funded by the Government, who are entitled to chauffeur driven cars. Finally, the Court has also directed the Chief Secretary to place the recommendations before the Cabinet for evolving new policies on all these matters and for implementation of the same.

3. In this regard, a committee comprising the Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department, Principal Secretary, Finance Department and Secretary, General Administration Department after several deliberations have recommended that a new category of Driver-cum-Office Attendant be introduced, qualification for the same be prescribed and all future recruitments of drivers be made in the new category called "Driver-cum-Office Attendant".

4. The committee also recommended the following with regard to purchase and use of vehicles in Government, Government agencies, Autonomous bodies, Statutory agencies, Public Sector undertakings, Co-operative bodies etc.

(i) Except for senior officers of the Rank of Special Secretary and above and Heads of Departments in Government and except in Departments where Officers use uniforms (Police, Excise, Forest, Jail and Motor Vehicle), only hired cars will be used. Hiring cars without drivers will also be encouraged, so long as surplus driver posts exist. This will apply to Government agencies etc. also. If any such agency requires exemption, Cabinet approval will be taken.

(ii) Vehicles costing less than ₹ 8 lakhs alone will be purchased. For purchase of high end cars (costing more than ₹ 8 lakhs), approval of the Cabinet will be required.

(iii) Whenever new vehicles are purchased to replace old ones, which will be condemned, there will be a condition that after the new vehicle hits the road, the condemned vehicle will not be allowed to run. If the vehicle to be condemned is used after purchase of a new vehicle, the cost @ ₹ 10 per km. will be recovered from the Head of the Office to which the old vehicle is attached.

5. The recommendations of the committee was examined in detail by the Government and the following orders are issued in the matter:

(i) A new category named 'Driver-cum-Office Attendant' will be introduced in State Government Service for which separate qualification will be prescribed and all future recruitment of driver be made in the new category called "Driver-Cum-Office Attendant".

(ii) Except for Senior Officers of the Rank of Special Secretary and above, the Heads of Department in Government and Officers in uniforms (Police, Excise, Forest, Jail and Motor Vehicle etc.), only hired cars shall be used and that hiring cars without drivers shall be encouraged so long as surplus driver posts exist and this will be applied to Government agencies also and if any such agency requires exemption, Cabinet approval shall be taken.

(iii) Only vehicles costing less than ₹ 10 lakh shall be purchased in Government and for the purchase of vehicles costing more than ₹ 10 lakh, prior approval of the Cabinet shall be required.

(iv) Whenever new vehicles are purchased to replace the old ones which are to be condemned, the condemned vehicle shall not be allowed to run after the new vehicle hits the road and it shall be disposed off within 6 months either by auction or following other approved procedures. If the vehicle to be condemned is used after the purchase of a new vehicle, the cost @ ₹ 10 per km. shall be recovered from the Head of the Office to which the old vehicle is attached.

(v) The committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, will be convened forthwith and shall submit definite guidelines with regard to the speedy disposal of unserviceable articles and seized/confiscated vehicles lying idle in Police and other departments.

6. The Judgment of the Hon'ble High Court read above is complied with accordingly.

By order of the Governor,

K. R. IVYOHANAL,

Secretary to Government.