

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Transport Department

Writers' Buildings

Kolkata - 700 001

MEMORANDUM

No. 2203-WT/7B-22/2001

Dated : May 16, 2003

In partial modification of this Department's Order No. 10860-WT-43/97 Pt. dated 23.11.1994 with a view to streamlining the procedure now being followed in respect of the Benefit of Free Travel Facilities to the Physically Handicapped persons, it has been decided by the Government in supersession of all previous orders on the subject, that the following procedures should hence onward be followed in the matter of free travel by the physically handicapped persons, as per guidelines of The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities Protection of Right and Full Participation) Act, 1995 which has declared all persons with not less than 40% of any disability, eligible for availing of the benefit under the said Act.

2. Benefit of free travel facilities in tram cars and buses owned by State Transport Undertaking will be available only to the disabled persons of the following categories suffering from :

(a) "Blindness" refers to a condition where a person suffers from any of the following conditions, namely :

- (i) Total absence of sight ; or
- (ii) Visual acuity not exceeding 6/60 or 20/200 (snellen) in the better eye with correcting lenses; or
- (iii) Limitation of the field of vision subtending an angle of 20 degree or worse.

(b) "Low vision" (a person with low impairment of visual functioning even after treatment of standard refractive correction but who uses or is potentially capable of using vision for the planning or execution of a task with appropriate assistive device);

(c) "Locomotor disability" (disability of the bones, joints or muscles leading to substantial restriction of the movement of the limbs or any form of cerebral palsy)

(d) "Hearing Impairment" (loss of sixty decibels or more in the better ear in the conversational range of frequencies).

(e) "Mental Retardation" (a condition of arrested or incomplete development of mind of a person which is specially characterised by sub-normality of intelligence).

(f) "Austism"

(g) "Cerebral Palsy" (a group of non-progressive conditions of a person characterised by abnormal motor control posture resulting from brain insult or injuries occurring in the pre-natal or infant period of development).

(h) "Multiple Disability"

(i) "Leprosy Cured person will also enjoy travel facilities" (any person who has been cured of leprosy but is suffering from —

(ii) Loss of sensation in hands or feet as well as loss of sensation and paresis in the eye and eye-lid but with no manifests deformity.

(iii) Extreme physical deformity as well advanced age which prevents him from undertaking any gainful occupation and the expression

"Leprosy Cured" shall be construed accordingly.

3. "The District Social Welfare Officers and Child Development Project Officers of ICDS Projects shall issue / renew identity cards in favour of persons with disabilities in the districts and Assistant Commissioner (Disabilities shall issue / renew identity cards in favour of persons with disabilities in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation area. Identity

cards issued by any other authority should not be accepted as valid. The identity cards issued by the Competent Authority as mentioned above will remain valid for a period of 10 (Ten) years from the date of issue / renewal".

4. A companion is to be allowed to travel free of cost without an Identity Card only in the case of :—

- (a) The visually handicapped person who is blind in both eyes;
- (b) Pailsied Mongoloid categories of mentally retarded persons;
- (c) Persons who are unable to move on their own because of diseases of long duration of congenital defects.

This may be certified by a Presidency Surgeon in Kolkata or C.M.O. in respect of people residing in Districts.

The physically handicapped persons who possess the Identity Card may avail themselves the facility of Free travel as mentioned above in all buses and tram cars including Inter-District buses operated by STCs and CTC.

This facility will not, however, be available for travel in Rocket / Deluxe buses and Inter-state buses operated by the STUs.

5. In all buses and tram one seat is to be kept reserved for the physically handicapped person.

All the R.T. As should persuade the private buses plying in their areas to follow the above instructions so that no utter violation, like forcefully collecting fare from the disable commuters or pulling them down from the vehicle in spite of their having valid Identity Cards with them; could take place [Of the rights envisaged in the P.W.D. Act, 1995]

This order shall come into force with immediate effect.

Sd/-
Joint Secretary to the
Government of West Bengal

Ministry of Railways have decided to grant concession in train fares to AIDS patients, for treatment at nominated ART (Anti Retroviral Therapy) Centres (list enclosed) and return after treatment. The element of concession will be 50% in Second class only (and not sleeper or any other class).

2. Concession will be admissible in basic Mail/Express fares only and not in other charges like reservation fee, superfast surcharge, development surcharge, etc., which shall be recovered in full as per existing rules. Concession will be granted directly by station Masters on production of the certificate in prescribed form issued by Officer-in-charge of the concerned ART centre where the patient is to be treated or has been treated. Specimen copies of the prescribed Concession Certificates for outward and return journeys are enclosed. Concession will be admissible without any Minimum distance limit, subject to the distance restrictions otherwise applicable in individual Mail/Express trains. Concession will not be admissible in Rajdhani/shatabdi/Jan Shatabdi/Garib Rath trains. This concession will be admissible subject to other conditions mentioned in rule 101 of IRCA Coaching Tariff No. 25 Part. I (Vol.II).

3. These instructions have come into effect on tickets issued from 01.04.2008.

It is requested to kindly give necessary instructions to concerned ART centres (as per list enclosed) situated in your zone and arrange to send specimen copies of the certificate prescribed by the Railway Board.

DA :- as refd. to.

(B. N. GHOSAL)
FOR CHIEF COMMERCIAL MANAGER