

Association of Health Service Doctors

West Bengal

Registration No: S/53390 of 1986-'87



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Your Ref:

Date:

Our Ref. AHSD/GC/021/18

Date : 26/06/18

To
The Principal Secretary,
Dept. of Health & Family Welfare,
Govt. Of West Bengal

Sub: Protest against administrative high handedness on officers of WBPH&AS cadre and seeking appointment for discussion over it.

Sir,

Most unfortunately it was noticed by our organization that some of your recent steps are not only demeaning and derogatory to the officers under WBPH&AS cadre, but also are actually aimed at weakening this cadre. We unambiguously protest such steps and call for immediate revocation of the same. Some of the instances of administrative high handedness are as follows:

- 1) It is reported that Dr Prasanta Biswas, ADHS, on being transferred and posted as CMOH, Murshidabad, on 26/5/2018, was served release order through whatsapp on the same day and was not allowed to avail transit leave and was forced to join his new office on the next day itself day . There was no emergency situation to justify this undue hastiness. Dr Biswas, who is also Asst Secretary of our organization and one of the very good officers of the State, by no way deserves this humiliation.
- 2) Dr Kartik Chandra Mondal, ADHS, who has handled Dengue outbreak in the State last year very efficiently as State Nodal Officer, has been virtually demoted to look after works of a lower rank in Kolkata district. Dr Brojeswar Majumdar, ADHS, another senior officer, has also been put to look after works of a lower rank. Such humiliation of senior officers will not only demoralize them, but also demotivate other officers of WBPH & AS. And this in turn is going to weaken the WBPH&AS cadre and hamper public health works in the State.
- 3) Dr Sajal Biswas, DADHS, has been transferred to a district far from the State HQ, fully knowing that he is elected Secretary of one of the service doctors' organization. In the past, there was a convention here in West Bengal that State-level office bearers of different employees' organization were allowed to serve from the State HQ during their tenure of office bearer. Transfer of Dr Biswas reminds us one more instance few years back when Dr Satyajit Chakraborty, ADHS, and the then standing General Secretary of AHSD, WB, was transferred out from Swasthya Bhavan to Midnapore. Such transfers are instances of undemocratic, autocratic and anti-employee attitude of the Govt.
- 4) Several other officers have recently been placed as OSD in different sections of Swasthya Bhavan. Some of them have to handle more than one charges, while due promotion of the junior officers are pending since long. This, we think, is purposefully being done to weaken and destabilize WBPH&AS cadre. The deliberate stagnation adds to worsen the morale of the serving officers.

- 5) Recent score sheet for promotion of WBPH&AS cadres published in website shows many discrepancies which keep room for nepotism and injustice at the same time. For instance, those who have served as Superintendent in different tier of hospitals have been awarded extra points, while those who have served as different Programme Officers in the same rank are deprived of extra points unlike their colleagues serving in the same tier but as Superintendents.. But posting either as Superintendent or as Programme Officer is never done based on choice of the incumbent, rather is done by discretion of the state administration. Therefore, it is obvious that some officers are selectively offered posts of Superintendents, who, can earn extra points for early promotion, while others are selectively offered posts of Programme Officers, who shall always be lagging behind from their counterparts in the same rank. This malafide and erroneous scoring system should immediately be rectified for the interest of transparency, justice and public service. More to mention, that according twenty percent marks in Interview (!) just opens the avenues to invite nepotism, thus enabling the junior (or otherwise ranking far bottom in the sheet) officers to receive promotion, dampening the legitimate desire of the senior, experienced ones.
- 6) It is noticed that members of WBPH&AS cadres are being deprived of TR facility even when they qualify to pursue higher education in public health related subjects. Members of WBPH&AS cadres who qualify to go for PG degree/ diploma in public health and allied subjects must be allowed TR/study leave, as the case may be, in order to strengthen this cadre.
- 7) Recent order of the WB SAT on TR issue has proved that Dr Rashbehari Dutta had no fault on his part. But he is still under suspension. We demand immediate withdrawal of his suspension and public apology of the persons who had victimised him unjustly.
- 8) Last, but not the least, we have taken a serious note that officers of the WBPH&AS cadres both in State & district levels despite working within severe infrastructural, logistical and manpower constraints, are often being harassed and humiliated by the top level bureaucrats. They are being given unrealistic targets to achieve and being treated badly. Some of the bureaucrats are using unsavoury words at them and threatening every now and then during weekly video conference. This is not at all acceptable and our organization shall show zero tolerance to such derogatory, pejorative treatment of the technocrats by bureaucrats.

We hereby flag our loudest protest against all these and request you to make it convenient to sit with us on an early date to discuss these issues across the table in order to strengthen public health service in West Bengal.

Thanking You
Yours faithfully

Manas Gumta

(Dr. Manas Gumta)
General Secretary,
Association of Health Service Doctors,
Govt. Of West Bengal

Copy to:

1. Director of Health Services,
Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of W.B.