

**WEST BENGAL COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION**

(REGISTERED UNDER ACT XXI 1960)

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**Dated the 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2020**

To,  
Dr. Partha Chatterjee  
Honourable MIC, Department of Education,  
Government of West Bengal,  
Bikash Bhavan,  
Saltlake,  
Kolkata

**Subject: HRA Declaration of Spouse in Government Aided Colleges**

Respected Sir,

Before the release of each pay-packet for teachers and librarians in Government aided colleges of West Bengal, each employee has to furnish the HRA Declaration in Government aided colleges. This has always been applicable to those whose spouses are also Government employees. Therefore, teachers/librarians whose spouses are self employed or serving in private sectors were exempted from such declaration, this has been the custom for the last several decades. A couple of years ago, some officers suddenly became proactive in calculating the house rent of spouses no matter whether he/she is a government/private employee, whose spouse is working in an office within 120 Kms distance. This rule was suddenly applied without any relevant order. For few months, many teachers had to forego a portion of their HRA owing to this arbitrary application of a new rule. WBCUTA intervened and lodged severe protests, and as a result of this, Bikash Bhavan stopped this practice. But, still now, the money deducted due to this arbitrary application has not been reimbursed to the incumbents. After a year or so a section of officers in Bikash Bhavan again became

proactive in taking into account the HRA availed by the spouses working in private sector also. In doing so, they are citing an order issued by the finance department Nabanna, which reads that even spouses working in private sectors will have to furnish the amount, and the HRA ceiling of the husband and wife will be determined accordingly. We register strong protests against this. Moreover, there is no matching order from education directorate in this regard. So far, teachers and librarians of very few colleges have accepted this verdict, and pay packets of such colleges have also been released without any objection. But in several Colleges across the state, particularly in the colleges in North 24 Parganas teachers are being forced and intimidated by the principals and competent authorities to calculate the HRA of spouse working in private sectors also, in determining the ceiling. WBCUTA strongly condemns this as there is no matching order in this regard in connection with the order issued by Nabanna. This is culminating in massive discrepancies among teachers across state. Some teachers are still following the old system, and getting the HRA they deserve whereas some teachers in some colleges due to the aggressive dealing of the college authority were incurring loss in drawing the house rent allowances. We bring this serious issue to you knowledge. We seek your immediate intervention in this regard.

Thanking you,

Your sincerely,



**(Prof. Kesab Bhattacharya)**  
**General Secretary**  
**WBCUTA**  
**Mobile No. 9830021794**