

West Pakistani Refugees (WPRs) are those who migrated from areas in the West Pakistan in the wake of partition in the year 1947 and settled in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, mainly in Jammu, Kathua and Rajouri districts of Jammu Division. The 5,764 migrated families were not treated as Permanent Residents in the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir. Though the WPRs are citizens of India and have the right to vote in parliamentary elections, they did not have the right to vote in the assembly and local body elections. They did not have the right to purchase property in the erstwhile state. The children of these WPRs could not take admission in the technical and professional institutions of the erstwhile state.

2. In order to reduce the hardships of WPRs, the Ministry of Home Affairs approved a rehabilitation package similar to the package implemented for the displaced persons families of POJK (1947) & Chhamb (1965 & 1971). **The objective was to enable the WPR families living in J&K to run small business/self-employment venture or which can provide the families some assured and sustained earnings.** Accordingly, the scheme for providing one-time financial assistance of Rs.5.5 lakh per family to the 5764 WPR families with a total outlay of Rs. 317.02 crores was implemented on 13.06.2018 with the approval of the Standing Finance Committee (SFC), with the time-line as 31.03.2021. Due to non-receipt of authenticated proposals from the Govt. of J&K, there was no disbursement of financial assistance during the years 2018-19 and 2019-20. Hence, with the SFC approval, the scheme has been further extended up to 31.03.2024.

3. Under the scheme, financial assistance of Rs.5.5 lakh per family is disbursed by the Ministry of Home Affairs into the Aadhaar-linked bank accounts of eligible beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode. Government of J&K collects details of eligible WPR beneficiaries, authenticates them and uploads the details in the PFMS module. The year wise disbursements since inception of the scheme are as under:

(Amount in Rs.)

Financial Year	Allocation	Amount Disbursed	No. of beneficiaries
2018-19	50,00,00,000	0.00	Nil
2019-20	200,00,00,000	0.00	Nil
2020-21	2,82,00,000	2,81,73,750.00	102
2021-22	45, 00,00,000	11,69,71,251.00	314
2022-23	33,11,00,000	33,10,89,179.00	991
2023-24	25,00,00,000	3,61,72,046.00	235

However, with the removal of Article 370, the WPRs have the rights to vote in assembly/DDC elections and their children can get admission in professional colleges.

SL. No. 3

No. 12013/01/2020-J&K
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
Department of Jammu and Kashmir Affairs

North Block, New Delhi,
Dated the 18th February, 2022

To

The Chief Secretary,
Government of J&K
Civil Secretariat Jammu

Subject: **Financial Assistance to families of West Pakistan Refugees (WPRs) settled in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.- Extension of the time-line of the scheme beyond 31.03.2021.**

Sir,

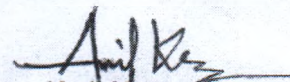
I am directed to refer to Government of J&K's letter No R&R/Rehab./CSC/19/2015 dated 14.03.2016 and this Ministry's letter No. 31/01/2011-R&SO (Part) dated 13.06.2018 vide which approval of the Government of India was conveyed to the proposal for providing onetime financial assistance amounting to Rs. 5.5 lakh per family to 5,764 families of West Pakistan Refugees (WPRs) settled in Jammu and Kashmir, with the time line of 31.03.2021.

2. The Government of India has now decided to extend the time-line of the scheme upto 31.03.2024 within the approved outlay of Rs. 317.02 crores.

3. As in the existing system, financial assistance will be disbursed directly into their Aadhar-linked Bank Accounts based on the authenticated proposals furnished by the Government of J&K.

4. Since the scheme shall not continue beyond the sunset date i.e. 31.03.2024, Govt. of J&K is requested to furnish authenticated proposals accordingly.

5. This issue with the approval of Competent Authority of this Ministry.


(Anil Kumar)

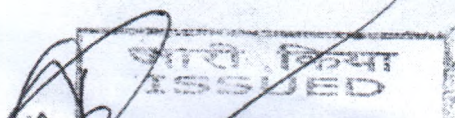
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel No. 2309 4307

Copy to:-

- i. Principal Secretary (Home), Govt. of J&K, Jammu
- ii. Financial Commissioner, Finance Department, Govt. of J&K, Civil Secretariat, Jammu
- iii. Secretary (Relief & Rehabilitation) Govt. of J&K, Civil Secretariat, Jammu
- iv. DGP, Police Headquarter, Govt. of J&K, Civil Secretariat, Jammu.
- v. The Accountant General, Govt. of J&K, Civil Secretariat, Jammu.

Copy for information to: -

PPS to HM/ PPS to MOS(N)/ PPS to HS/ PPS to AS&FA(H)/ PPS to AS(JKL)/PPS to JS(JKL)/Director (Fin.-Home)


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