

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM  
FINANCE (BUDGET) DEPARTMENT

No.BW.15/2002/94

Dated Dispur, the <sup>29<sup>th</sup></sup>~~29<sup>th</sup>~~ April, 2020

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SUB: AUSTERITY MEASURES.

Finance Department has been issuing austerity instructions from time to time with a view to containing non-developmental expenditure and releasing of additional resources for priority schemes. Such measures are intended at promoting fiscal discipline, without restricting the operational efficiency of the Government. In the context of the current fiscal situation arising out of outbreak of COVID-19, there is a need to rationalize expenditure and optimize available resources. With a view to mitigate the present economic crisis, the Hon'ble Governor, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam and Council of Ministers have already decided to donate 30% of their salary to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Keeping the overall objective, the following measures for fiscal prudence and economy will come into force with immediate effect.

1. Issuance of Administrative Approval/Financial Sanction in respect of SOPD:

All sanctioning power delegated to the Administrative Departments/Heads of Department, as per DFP Rule 1999 as amended, relating to the issuance of Administrative Approval and Financial Sanction in respect of SOPD Schemes is hereby withdrawn until further orders. However, the Departments may approach Finance Department with full justification for prior concurrence of schemes they propose to implement.

Delegated power in respect of CSS/EAP will continue, as before.

2. Reduction in Establishment Expenditure:

In suppression of the point no.(iii) indicated in the General Instructions of the Budget Communicated vide No.BB.207/2012/235 dated 10/4/2020 - which limited the Establishment Expenditure for the first Quarter of the Financial Year 2020-21 to 20%, now only 10% of the total budget is hereby allowed to be spent.

3. Industrial Exemptions:

All expenses pertaining to Industrial exemptions, subsidies and incentives of various sectors are hereby suspended until further orders. No reimbursement of GST to industries will be allowed in the first quarter of the current financial year.

4. Ban on purchase of vehicles:

Purchase of vehicles is banned until further orders, except in case of ambulances and vehicles required for police duty. This will, however, be permitted only with the approval of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam.

5. Holding of conferences/workshops/Seminars/fairs and functions etc.:

Utmost economy shall be observed in organizing conferences/ seminars/ workshops/ fairs and functions. Holding of such exhibitions/seminars/ conferences/fair and functions is totally banned in the first quarter in the physical mode. There will be a ban on holding of meetings and conferences in five star hotels.

*H. Dutta*  
29/4/20

**6. Class of Travel:**

No executive class will be allowed except in the case of Hon'ble Governor of Assam, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam, Hon'ble Chief Justice, Assam, Hon'ble other Judges of Gauhati High Court and Chief Secretary, Assam.

**7. Accommodation to State Guests in five star hotels:**

General Administrative Department will use discretion in declaration of visiting dignitaries as State Guests and follow all norms.

**8. Foreign Training/Workshop/Seminar:**

No officer will be allowed to attend any foreign training course/workshop/seminar outside India for which expenditure has to be borne by the State Government.

**9. Reduction in Honorarium:**

Remuneration in respect of Chairman and Vice Chairman of all PSUs/ Corporations/ Boards will be reduced by 25% w.e.f. 01.05.2020.

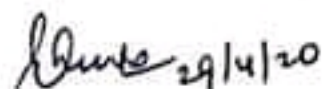
**10. Release of MLA Area Development Fund:**

Release of MLA Area Development Fund will remain suspended in the first four months of the current financial year or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

**All Heads of Administrative Departments, Heads of Departments and DDOs shall be personally responsible for the proper enforcement of all the austerity measures mentioned in this O.M.**

This will come into force with immediate effect.

This O.M. issues with the approval of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam.



Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam  
Finance Department, Assam

29<sup>th</sup>

Dated Dispur, the 29<sup>th</sup> April, 2020

Memo No.BW.15/2002/94-A

Copy to: -

1. The Chairman, Assam Administrative Tribunal, Guwahati-1.
2. The Chairman, Assam Board of Revenue, Panbazar, Guwahati-1.
3. The Chairman, Assam State Electricity Board, Bijuli Bhawan, Guwahati-1.
4. All Additional Chief Secretaries to the Govt. of Assam.
5. The Director General of Police, Assam, Ulubari, Guwahati-7.
6. The Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, Assam.
7. The Agricultural Production Commissioner, Assam, Dispur.
8. All Principal Secretaries/Commissioner & Secretaries/Secretaries to the Govt. of Assam.
9. The Principal Secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly, Dispur.
10. All Commissioners of Divisions, Assam.
11. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Governor of Assam.
12. The Chief Electoral Officer, Assam, Dispur.