



ASSOCIATION OF LAND AND LAND REFORMS OFFICERS', WEST BENGAL

এ্যাসোসিয়েশন অব্ ল্যান্ড এন্ড ল্যান্ড রিফর্মস অফিসার্স, ওয়েস্ট বেঙ্গল

Regd. No. : S/59306/88-89

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CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Memo No. 12/ALLO/2022

Date: 30.05.2022

To,
The Secretary
&
Land Reforms Commissioner, West Bengal
L & L R & R R & R Department,
NABANNA,
Howrah-711102.



Re: State level service in Land and Land Reforms and Refugee, Relief and Rehabilitation Department, Government of West Bengal.

Ref: Notification no. 406/1E-02/2020-Apptt Dated 11.02.2021 of the Land Reforms Commissioner and Principal Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal.

Respected Madam,

With regard to the subject under reference we just cannot hold our breath and stare at the apathetic procrastination of the decision of fixing the modalities of service in the department.

Land Reforms is a state subject as per our Constitution of India. It is an irony that after Independence, West Bengal had been a great achiever in this field of legitimate fight against the zamindars, Jotedars, 'Big Raiyats' and land sharks, to safeguard the interest of the marginal farmers, artisans, share-croppers and landless peasants. The departmental officers, i.e. SRO I, SRO II and ROs in different nomenclatures had been the key of Land Reforms through ages.

Trudging through the history of last 40 years we have seen how this demand of formation of state level service in L&LR Department has been scuttled. But, the necessity of formation of service in this Department had never been denied. The entire issue had been thrown to doldrums in spite of and after much hullabaloo. Sri S P Mullik Committee, Sri P Bandopadhyay Committee reports are at hand but effectively it produced nothing.

Our age old demand had been to unify the entire cadre of SRO II with the maximum number of SRO I found working at any point of time to form a state level service with ROs (WBSLRS Gr-I) as the sole feeder to such service. We also demanded erstwhile scale numbers of 17, 18 and 19 starting from scale 16 for the unified cadre.

Initially, though it met stiff resistance from other associations whose bombastic demands were figment of imagination and absurdity in highest order as per Sri P Bandopadhyay IAS report, but, for now sanity has prevailed over imagination. All the other associations, willy nilly, has consented to the most scientific formula of merging the two cadres SRO II and SRO I to be the stepping stone for paving the way to constitute state level service. This is a positive development.

The cadres have long suffered injustice by delaying the constitution of service in the department. Experience has taught us to apprehend the slights and covert attacks from different corners rebuffing any serious attempt towards formation of service in this dept.



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We welcome heartily, the government's decision of constituting a state level service in this dept. We know from our experience that this renewed journey will not be a rose petalled path.

Work load of Land Reforms is mainly shouldered by all the cadres belonging to SRO II and RO presently working in the department. Our concern with regard to their future career prospect is of utmost importance as their expertise in LR work should not let to be drained out from this department. This draining can only be restricted by including the entire cadre strength of SRO II in the proposed service and also RO as the sole feeder will ensure a regular supply of Land Reforms experts in the department. Previously, there has been attempt to disjunctify this cadre under one pretext or another in order to jeopardise the career, harmony and unity of all the cadres from SROI to RO. Such propensities still exist in spite of the good will and wishes of the government. It is the only tool left to drown the boat by anyhow reducing the number of berths in the upper most tier of the constituted service cadre in the department.

We know that opportunism will get impetus with such scuttling designs which our association had proudly overcome in the past. The unification of cadres (SRO II & SRO I) entirely can only save the cadres and create some positive impact in the career of ROs as well as, and down the line i.e. RIs and their feeder.

This issue of feeder to WBCS (Exe) cadre, the status held by SRO II must also be kept in mind while appreciating the existing opportunities available to the cadre, as it is a major gateway to SROIs to avoid career stagnation.

However, through our previous letter we sought time and audience of your kind self. At this juncture, the matter is of prime importance to the interest of the cadres as well as of the department.

With regards.

Yours faithfully,

Krishanu Deb

Krishanu Deb

General Secretary