

**Minutes of 50<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority held on 12.07.2022 at 3.00 PM through VC under the Chairmanship of Sh. Karan Avtar Singh, Chairperson.**

**Present:** Shri Sushil Gupta, Member and Shri Surinder Singh Kukal, Member;

**In attendance:** J.K. Jain, Additional Secretary, PWRDA.

**Item No. 50.01: Confirmation of the Minutes of 48<sup>th</sup> Meeting of PWRDA.**

The Minutes of 48<sup>th</sup> meeting was circulated to all concerned. No comments received. May be confirmed. The Minutes of 49<sup>th</sup> meeting are yet to be issued.

**Decision:** *Confirmed.*

**Item No. 50.02: Action Taken Report:**

ATR on the decisions taken in 48<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Authority will be put up in the next meeting.

**Decision:** *Noted.*

**Item No. 50.03: Contractual Employment of Mr. Balwinder Singh Thind, Administrative Officer.**

Mr. Balwinder Singh Thind, was appointed Administrative Officer on contract for one year at a monthly remuneration of Rs.50,000/- (fixed). As per the terms of his contractual employment he joined on 18.06.2021 and the contract expired on 17.06.2022. Copy of the offer letter containing the terms and conditions of the contract is enclosed as **Annexure A-1**. The contract can be renewed at the sole discretion of PWRDA. Mr. Balwinder Singh Thind had requested that his contractual employment be extended for one year with suitable hike in salary.

2. Since time was short, in the interest of work the Chairperson extended his contract by one year subject to ratification by the Authority. Any changes in terms of appointment, including the wages may be decided by the Authority. Subsequently, order (**Annexure A-2**) appointing him on contract on the same terms and conditions from 20/06/2022 to 19/06/2023 (18/06/2022 And 19/06/2022 being Saturday & Sunday) was issued. Mr. Balwinder Singh Thind joined on 20/06/2022 (FN).

Placed before the Authority for consideration and approval.

**Decision:** *1. Approved the extension of contractual employment of Shri Balwinder Singh Thind on the post of Administrative Officer for one year from 20.06.2022 to 19.06.2023 on the same terms and conditions. As regards revision in wages his performance appraisal may be put up for consideration.*

**Item No. 50.04: Regarding approval of Tour Program of Members.**

As per Punjab Government Notification dated 14.07.2020 (**Annexure A-3**) the provision regarding the Travelling Allowance of Members is:

*"For journey performed on duty within or outside the State of Punjab, but within the territory of India, or at the time of appointment or retirement, the Members shall be entitled to draw such travelling allowances and daily allowance, as are admissible to the Financial Commissioner Grade Officers of the state of Punjab."*

Punjab Government, Finance Department instructions regarding fixation of entitlements of Senior Government Officers of Punjab for domestic/international travel issued vide ID No. 18/06/2018-4FP2/1418785/2 dated 13/02/2019 (**Annexure A-4**) provide as follows:

".....advised that since 7<sup>th</sup> Central Pay Commission has been implemented by Government of India for IAS/IFS/IPS officers, so their pay, allowances and entitlements shall be as determined by the 7<sup>th</sup> Central Pay Commission".

2. Regarding controlling authority to approve the Tour Program/TA/DA of Members, the notification dated 14.07.2020 (**Annexure A3**) and Punjab Water and Development Authority (Conduct of Business) Regulations, 2021 (**Annexure A-5**) are silent. Hence, this matter needs to be decided.

3. Keeping in view the instructions and practice in Government for Financial Commissioner Grade Officers for whom the controlling authority is the next higher authority, it is proposed that the controlling authority for this purpose may be the Chairperson.

Placed before the Authority for consideration.

**Decision:** *Approved as proposed.*

**Item No. 50.05: Regarding Tour Programme and Travelling Allowances of PWRDA Staff.**

1. Regarding tour programme and admissibility of TA/DA to the Secretary and staff of the Authority, "Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority (Appointment & Service Conditions of Employees) Regulations, 2020" are **silent**.

2. Vide orders dated 27.01.2021, Chairperson has designated the Secretary PWRDA as Controlling Officer for the staff of the Authority for TA/DA purposes. This may be ratified by the Authority.

3. Likewise, Controlling Officer to approve/sanction Tour Program and TA/DA of Secretary of PWRDA needs to be designated. It is proposed that Chairperson may be designated as the Controlling Officer to approve/sanction tour programs and TA/DA of the Secretary.

Placed before the Authority for consideration.

**Decision:** *Approved as proposed. Additional Secretary informed that to streamline the procedures of sanction of TA/DA bills this item of work shall be included in the proposed delegation of financial powers to be put up separately to the Authority.*

**Item No.50.06: Regarding representation of CII for relaxation in Advance Deposit on Groundwater Usage.**

1. A representation has been received from Sh. Amit Thapar, Chairman CII Punjab regarding relaxation in Advance Deposit on Groundwater usage by Industry, which states as follows:

*"These Advance deposit charges currently seems to have been suggested on lines of Advance deposit which is taken by the Power department based on the sanctioned load to the entity. However, we would like to submit that there is a fundamental difference between the supply of Power by the Department and the withdrawal of Water by Industry for usage. In case of Electricity, the Government/PSPCL already has incurred a cost of service which it delivers to the consumer hence, the Advance consumption deposit is justified to help the department cover up those costs so as to avoid any loss/ default to service provider.*

*However, in case of water usage by Industry, the Industry itself has to setup & maintain the infrastructure for drawing out water to be used in its premises. Therefore, we feel that the Advance deposit of 2 months of Water Extraction charges is not warranted and will only block Industry's substantial Working capital which is already feeling the pressure of rising raw material costs, inflation, bank interest rates and other fixed liabilities.*

*We appreciate the fact that the Government would want to keep a reasonable security deposit or a fixed levy on the Ground water usage by Industry, therefore we would request that the proposed Advance Consumption deposit on Ground Water usage by Industry should be rationalized for MSMES at Rs 5000/- and for large category Industry at Rs 25000/-."*

3. In the Directions 2022, the provision regarding Security Deposit in Paragraph 5.2 is as under:

Administrative Officer  
Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority

*"An amount equivalent to two months of the Groundwater Extraction Charges for the permitted volume of groundwater extraction by the Unit will be required to be paid in advance by the User as an interest-free Security Deposit. When a User applies for groundwater extraction Permission it shall pay along with the application an amount equivalent to two months of Groundwater Charges for the volume of groundwater extraction applied for.*

**Explanation:** *The Security Deposit will be calculated on the basis of the rate of Groundwater Extraction Charges (exclusive of water conservation credits) as applicable at the time of submitting the application. The Security Deposit shall not be reduced in case the Unit is eligible for any water conservation credits."*

4. The proposal sent to the Government (**Annexure A-7**) for approval of Groundwater charges which has been approved by Government u/s17(5) includes Security Deposit (**Annexure A-8**).

Placed before the Authority for consideration.

**Decision:** Authority considered the representation of CII for relaxation in advance deposit on Groundwater usage and decided that:

1. In Punjab Directions for Groundwater Extraction and Conservation 2022,
  - a. In Paragraph "5.2 Security Deposit" the words "two months" wherever they occur be substituted with the words "one month".
  - b. In Paragraph 5.1 A, before Explanation, the following provision be inserted:  
"Provided that for a User in the context of a Unit consisting of a Building or a Colony that extracts Groundwater for uses including drinking and domestic use, and is eligible for exemption of Groundwater Extraction Charges up to 30 Cubic Meters for each occupied individual household/dwelling unit/apartment per month, the Security Deposit shall be calculated on the reduced amount of groundwater charges as per provisions contained in para 5.1 above."
- 2.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair. .

E-office ਦੀ ਮਿਸ਼ਨ ਹੈ  
36543 ਦੇ ਨੋਟ # 604 ਮਿਤੀ  
15.07.2022 ਵਾਲੇ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦੀ  
ਦੁੱਕ ਖੋਲ੍ਹ ਕੇ ਪਿੱਛੇ

19/7/2022

Administrative Officer  
Punjab Water Regulation and Development Authority  
Chandigarh