

AMENDMENT OF THE REGULATIONS

(1) Amendment of the Regulations:- In the Kerala State Legal Services Authority Regulations, 1998,--

- I. In regulations 13, after clause (2), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-

“(3) Non-official members of the District Legal Services Authority, who are not entitled to Travelling allowance and Daily Allowance shall be paid a sitting fee of Rs.50/- for attending the meeting or any other programme”.

- II. Regulation 14 shall be numbered as sub-regulation (1) of Regulation 14 and after sub-regulation (1) as so numbered the following shall be added as sub-regulation (2) thereof, namely:-

“(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-regulation (1) the State Authority may deposit all sums of money received from the Central Authority under clause (a) of sub section (1) of section 16 of the Act in a Public Sector Bank as decided by the State Authority which shall be jointly operated by the Member Secretary and the Accounts Officer”.

for regulation 37, the following regulation shall be substituted, namely:-

“37. Honorarium to Presiding Officers and Members of the Lok Adalats, etc:-

- 1) The Presiding Officers other than sitting Judicial Officers and members of Lok Adalats shall be entitled to honorarium at the rate of Rs.250/- and Rs.150/- each per day, respectively.
- 2) The sitting Judicial Officers attending or associating with Lok Adalats on public holidays shall be given honorarium at the rate of Rs.350/- per day.
- 3) When the services of retired Judicial Officers are obtained from outside the District, due to non-availability of such persons in the district concerned, they shall be paid honorarium as fixed by the Chairman of the District Legal Services Authority concerned in consultation with the Member Secretary, not exceeding Rs.400/- per day”.

- III. To sub-regulation (1) of regulation 42, the following proviso shall be added namely:-

“provided that if a Judicial Officer before whom the case comes is satisfied that there would be delay in getting the authorisation aforesaid, he may entrust the case to a legal practitioner included in the panel, subject to ratification by the Authority/Committee concerned”.

By Order of Authority
Kerala State Legal Services Authority

Explanatory Note

(This does not form part of the notification but is intended to indicate its general purport).

At present there is no provision in the Kerala State Legal Services Authority Regulations to pay sitting fee to non-official members of the District Legal Services Authority who are not entitled to Travelling Allowance and Daily allowance. The Authority in its 13th meeting held on the 21st June, 2002 has decided to pay a sitting fee of Rs.50/- to non-official members who are not entitled to Travelling Allowance and Daily allowance for attending meeting or any other programme of the District Authority. Besides, the honorarium payable to the Presiding Officers and Members of the Lok Adalats at District, Taluk and High Court level is only nominal and it is being paid at different rates for different levels. The Authority has, therefore, decided to enhance the present rates and to introduce uniform rates at all levels. It has also been decided that since Mega Adalats are conducted on every second Saturdays, the Judicial Officers attending or associating with such Lok Adalats shall have to be paid compensation for the holidays. The District Authorities and Taluk Committees are undertaking daily, weekly and monthly Adalats and Literacy camps in various parts of the State. Due to the financial restrictions treasury is not releasing the funds as and when required. In the circumstances the Authority has also decided to amend regulation 14 for depositing the funds received from National Legal Services Authority in Public Sector Banks.

Further, there also occurs delay in the appointment of free Legal Aid Counsels as it is for the Authority/Committee concerned to provide legal practitioners to conduct a case. In order to avoid such delay, the Authority has decided to amend regulation so as to enable the Judicial Officers to entrust the case to a legal practitioner subject to ratification of the Authority/Committee concerned.

This notification is intended to achieve the above object.