



ABSTRACT

Welfare of Minorities–Scheme of Financial Assistance to visit Jerusalem by Christian Pilgrims – Guidelines for the implementation of Jerusalem Pilgrimage Financial Assistance Scheme –Constitution of Jerusalem Pilgrimage Committee, Screening Committee and Tender Evaluation Committee - Orders – Issued

Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare(MWRU) Department

G.O. (Ms) No. 113

**Dated 8.10.2012
Read:**

1. G.O Ms No. 120, Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Department, dated 25.12.2011.
 2. From the Commissioner of Minorities Welfare Chennai-2, letter no.4328/DM4/2011,dated 31.12.2011.
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ORDER:-

In the G.O first read above Government have sanctioned financial assistance of Rs.1 Crore for undertaking tour to the land of Jerusalem by all sections of Christian communities covering 500 Pilgrims (Rs.20,000/- for each pilgrim) during the year 2011-12.

2. Consequent to the above, the Government have constituted the following committees for the conduct of the pilgrimage:-

(I) JERUSALEM PILGRIMAGE COMMITTEE

To implement policies and directions of the Government in the interest of Jerusalem Pilgrims with the following composition:-

1.	Hon'ble Thiru S.T. Chellapandian, Minister for Labour	-	Chairman
2.	Thiru A. William Rabi Bernard. M.P	-	Member
3.	Thiru. J.C.D. Prabhakar, M.L.A.,	-	Member
4.	Arulthanthai M. Arulraj	-	Member
5.	Dr. V. Devasagayam	-	Member
6.	Dr. M. Prakash	-	Member
7.	Thiru. Justin Selvaraj	-	Member
8.	Dr. E.D. Charles	-	Member
9.	Tmt. C. Gunaseeli	-	Member
10.	Thiru P.W.C. Davidar,I.A.S., Special Secretary to Government ,Higher Education Department	-	Member

11.	Secretary to Government Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Department.	-	Member
12.	Principal Secretary to Government, Tourism & Culture Department	-	Member
13.	Commissioner of Minorities Welfare	-	Member- Secretary

(II) SCREENING COMMITTEE

To scrutinize the applications and select pilgrims, with the following composition:-

- 1) Secretary to Government (Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Department) or his nominee.
- 2) Commissioner of Minorities Welfare
- 3) An officer nominated by Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation
- 4) Thiru Z. Abraham, Under Secretary to Government, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department, Secretariat, Chennai -9 and
- 5) Thiru R.Rubandoss, District Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Officer, Tiruvallur District.

(III) TENDER EVALUATION COMMITTEE

To select the Tour Operator under the Chairmanship of Commissioner of Minorities Welfare with the following members:-

1.	Commissioner of Minorities Welfare	-	Chairman
2.	Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation	-	Member
3.	Deputy Secretary to Government, Finance Department, Secretariat, Chennai- 9	-	Member

3. This apart, the Government have also framed the following guidelines for providing financial assistance for the implementation of the scheme.

(A) Places to Visit :-

The pilgrimage may mainly covers the following places :-

- (i) Bethlehem - Place of Birth
- (ii) Jerusalem - Place of Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection

- (iii) Nazareth - Place of bringing up
- (iv) Jordan river - Place of Baptism
- (v) Dead Sea & Fresh Water Lake (Sea of Galilee) - Place of Preaching and
- (vi) Several other places connected with Christian faith etc.

The places will be finalized after the selection of Tour operator. In the event of any International disputes arising, some of the places may be dropped.

(B) Tour period:-

The Tour period will be from 7 to 10 days.

(C) Implementing Agency:-

The Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation Ltd (TAMCO) will be the implementing agency for this scheme.

(D) Criteria for selection of pilgrims:-

The following criteria will be adopted for selection of the pilgrims:-

- (i) Applicant must be Domicile of Tamil Nadu;
- (ii) Applicant must be a bonafide Christian;
- (iii) Applicant should possess Passport with minimum **one** year validity;
- (iv) Applicant should have no encumbrances for undertaking tour outside the country at the time of submission of application;
- (v) Applicant must be medically fit for Pilgrimage outside the country;
- (vi) Applicant should give an undertaking to pay the expenditure over and above the Govt. assistance, **one** month prior to the date of departure,
- (vii) No age limit be prescribed for the pilgrims, and
- (viii) No income ceiling prescribed for the pilgrims

(E) Inviting Applications:-

- (i) The Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation (TAMCO) will publish the advertisement in the News papers inviting applications from the eligible Christian Pilgrims in Tamil Nadu.
- (ii) The applications are to be submitted to the Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation (TAMCO) along with the following Documents within the stipulated time:-

- a) Transfer Certificate(TC)/Baptism Certificate/ Tahsildar Certificate
(Proof for bonafide Christianity)
- b) Family Card, Passport, Driving Licence,Voter ID, PAN Card
or any other proof acceptable to Govt. (Residential Proof)

(F) Mode of Selection:-

- (i) The beneficiaries will be selected through computerized draw of LOT (based on District-wise Christian Population) by the Screening Committee.
- (ii) Cover system will be considered for Draw. The maximum no. of persons included in a single application shall be four (4) members which may include 2 infants with age of 2 years and above;
- (iii) Preference will be given to the pilgrims of over 70 years and above with one companion.
- (iv) The selected pilgrim will be required to undertake the tour through the identified Tour Operator.

(G) Eligibility and Selection of Tour Operator:-

- (i) Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation (TAMCO) will call for applications through advertisement for Expression of Interest (EOI) from among the Travel Agents in Chennai.
- (ii) The Agents who submit the EOI will be shortlisted based on the following criteria:-
 - (a) Should have recognition from the International Association of Travel Agent (IATA) and approval from the Government of India, Ministry of Tourism.
 - (b) If the Travel Agent is a Member of International bodies and Travellers Agents Association of India (TAAI), it will be an added advantage,
- (iii) The Travel Agent should have a registered Office with minimum 3 years of Standing in the Trade in Tamil Nadu, should provide document of in-corporation,
- (iv) The organization should have conducted such tours with those professing Christian Practices viz, Baptism, Eucharistic Celebrations, Mass, Nativity, Via Dolorosa, Holy Sepulcher etc, since this is essentially a Religious Trip

- (v) An interview will be conducted to check about the authenticity and reliability of the Travel Operator;
- (vi) The bid document shall be in 2 parts
 - (a) Technical Bid and (b) Financial Bid

(H) Release of Financial Assistance:-

The Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation will release the funds to the Tour Operator after satisfactory completion of Tour.

(By Order of the Governor)

**THANGA KALIYAPERUMAL
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To

The Commissioner of Minorities Welfare, Chennai -2.
 The Managing Director,
 Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation, Chennai-2.
 Hon'ble Thiru S.T. Chellapandian, Minister for Labour
 Thiru A. William Rabi Bernard. M.P.,
 Thiru. J.C.D. Prabhakar, M.L.A.,
 Arulthanthai M. Arulraj
 Dr. V. Devasagayam
 Dr. M. Prakash
 Thiru. Justin Selvaraj
 Dr. E.D. Charles
 Tmt. C. Gunaseeli
 Thiru P.W.C. Davidar, I.A.S.,
 Special Secretary to Govt
 Higher Education Department
 Chennai-9.

(Through Commissioner, Minorities Welfare)
 Thiru Z. Abraham, Under Secretary to Government,
 MAWS Department, Chennai-9.
 Thiru R. Rubandoss,
 District Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Officer, Tiruvallur District.
 (Through District Collector, Tiruvallur)
 Managing Director,
 Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation, Chennai-2.

Copy to

Chief Minister's Officer, Chennai-9
 Special P.A to Honble Minister (BC&MW), Chennai-9

P.S to Secretary, Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Department ,Chennai-9.

Tourism and Culture Department, Chennai-9

Deputy Secretary, Finance Department,Chennai-9.

Finance Department, Chennai- 9.

Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department,Chennai-9.

All Collectors

Stock file/ Spare copy.

//Forwarded By Order//

Section Officer