

8. MISCELLANEOUS

8.48 Physically handicapped - 3% Reservation of Appointment in Public Services - Definition of "Blind" - Clarification

Letter No.69193/S/2005-7, dated 2.11.2006

From
Thiru.T.S.Sridhar,I.A.S.,
Special Commissioner and Secretary to Government

To
All the Departments

Sir,

Sub : Public Services - Welfare of Physically handicapped - Reservation of appointment in Public Services - Definition of 'Blind' - Clarification - Issued.

Ref : 1. G.O.Ms.No.99, Personnel and Administrative Reforms (Per.S) Department, dated.26.2.88
2. Govt. letter No.69193/S/2005 - 1, P & AR(S) Dept, dated 27.12.2005
3. From the Director and Superintendent Incharge, Regional Institute of Ophthalmology and Government Ophthalmic Hospital, Chennai - 8, letter No.11/ MB/2006, dated.22.2.2006

In the Government order first cited, Government have issued orders reserving 3% of the vacancies in all State Public Services / Educational Institutions for the following categories of physically handicapped persons :-

Sl.No.	Category of handicapped	% of Reservation
1.	Blind	1%
2.	Deaf	1%
3.	Orthopaedically handicapped	1%

2. It has been brought to the notice of Government that the definition for the term 'Blind' given in the Government order cited is more technical, and difficult to understand, while it is in descriptive terms in the cases of 'Deaf' and 'Orthopaedically handicapped'. The appointing authorities who are the implementing officials of the Government policy for the welfare of physically handicapped are mostly non - medical officers and they are not aware of the exact implications of the said definition 'Blind'.

3. Hence, I am directed to furnish a descriptive definition as follows for the category of 'Blind', so as to enable the appointing authorities to understand and implement the orders issued in the Government order issued.

Definition given in rule	Descriptive version
a) Total absence of vision	-
b) Visual Acuity not exceeding 6/60 or 20/200 (Snellen) in the better eye with correcting lens.	A legally blind person would have to stand 6 metres (20 feet) from an object to see it with the same degree of clarity,as a normally sighted person would see from 60 metres (200 feet).
c) Limitation of the field of scene vision subtending and Angle of 20 or worse	The person cannot see the whole as a normally sighted person can.This is measured in degrees.Normal sighted persons have visual field of 160 to 170

for SPECIAL COMMISSIONER AND
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT