

**GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
FINANCE DEPARTMENT
(RULES DIVISION)**

MEMORANDUM

No. F.12(3)FD(Rules)/2008

Jaipur, Dated : 12th September, 2008

**Sub.: Revision of pension of pre-01.09.2006 State Pensioners/
Family Pensioners etc.**

The Governor is pleased to order that the Pension / Family Pension of all the pre-01.09.2006 State Pensioners / Family Pensioners be revised with effect from 01.09.2006 in the manner indicated in the succeeding paragraphs except otherwise provided.

Applicability :

2. These orders shall apply to all service pensioners/ family pensioners who were in receipt of pension / family pension on 01.09.2006 under the Rajasthan Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1996, except to those who have been specifically excluded under this order.

Definitions :

3. In this order: -

- (a) 'Existing Pensioner' or 'Existing Family Pensioner' means a pensioner who was drawing / entitled to pension / family pension as on 31.08.2006.
- (b) 'Existing Pension' means the basic pension / consolidated pension inclusive of commuted portion, if any, due on 31.08.2006.
- (c) 'Existing Family Pension' means the basic family pension / consolidated family pension drawn on 31.08.2006.
- (d) 'Existing Dearness Relief' means the dearness relief @ 24% on original pension / family pension plus dearness pension.
- (e) 'Bank' means the branch of the Bank from which the pensioner is getting his pension.

Consolidation / Revision of Pension :

4. The pension / family pension of existing pre-01.09.2006 pensioners/ family pensioners will be consolidated with effect from 01.09.2006 by adding together: -
(i) The existing pension / family pension.

- (ii) Dearness Pension @ 50% of original pension / family pension / consolidated pension / consolidated family pension under FD order No. F.6(3)FD(Rules)/2004 dated 24.05.2004, where applicable.
- (iii) Dearness Relief @ 24% of original pension / family pension / consolidated pension / consolidated family pension plus Dearness Pension.
- (iv) Fitment weightage @ 40% of the existing pension / family pension.

Where the existing pension in (i) above includes the effect of merger of 50% of dearness relief w.e.f. 01.07.2004, the existing pension for the purpose of fitment weightage will be recalculated after excluding the merged dearness relief of 50% from the pension.

The amount so arrived at will be regarded as consolidated pension / family pension with effect from 01.09.2006.

5. (i) The consolidated pension (treated as final 'Basic Pension') as on 01.09.2006 of pre-01.09.2006 pensioner shall not be lower than 50% of sum of the minimum pay of the post in the running pay band plus grade pay introduced w.e.f. 01.09.2006 corresponding to the pre-revised pay scale of the post from which pensioner had retired, subject to the condition that the existing provisions in the rules governing qualifying service for grant of pension and minimum pension shall continue to be operative.
- (ii) Similarly, consolidated family pension (treated as final 'Basic Family Pension') as on 01.09.2006 of pre-01.09.2006 family pensioner shall not be lower than 30% of sum of the minimum pay of the post in the running pay band and grade pay introduced w.e.f. 01.09.2006 corresponding to the pre-revised pay scale of the post last held by the pensioner/ deceased Government servant, as the case may be, subject to the condition that the existing provisions in the rules governing minimum family pension shall continue to be operative.
- (iii) These provisions shall be deemed to have come into force w.e.f. 01.04.2008. The provisions of FD Memorandum No. F.15(1)FD (Rules)/99 dated 22.05.2008 shall stand modified to this extent. The procedure and form of application for revision of pension / family pension shall be as contained in the aforesaid Memorandum.

6. Since the consolidated pension will be inclusive of commuted portion of pension, if any, the commuted portion will be deducted from the said amount while making monthly disbursements.

7. The upper ceiling on pension / family pension shall be 50% and 30% respectively of the highest pay in the Government (the highest pay in the Government is Rs.77,000/- w.e.f. 01.09.2006).

8. The quantum of pension / family pension available to old pensioner/ family pensioner shall be increased as follows: -

Age of Pensioner / Family Pensioner	Additional Quantum of Pension / Family Pension
80 years	20% of Consolidated Pension / Consolidated Family Pension
85 years	30% of Consolidated Pension / Consolidated Family Pension
90 years	40% of Consolidated Pension / Consolidated Family Pension
95 years	50% of Consolidated Pension / Consolidated Family Pension
100 years	100% of Consolidated Pension / Consolidated Family Pension

The amount of additional pension / family pension will be shown distinctly in the pension payment order. For example, in case where a pensioner is more than 80 years of age and his/ her consolidated pension in terms of para 4 and 5 is Rs.10,000/- per month, the pension will be shown as (i) Basic Pension = Rs.10,000/- and (ii) Additional Pension = Rs.2,000/- per month. The pension on his / her attaining the age of 85 years will be shown as (i) Basic Pension = Rs.10,000/- and (ii) Additional Pension = Rs.3,000/- per month.

Dearness Relief on Pension :

9. The employed/ re-employed pensioners/ family pensioners are not getting dearness relief on pension at present under the extant orders. In their case the notional dearness relief which would have been admissible to them but for their employment/ re-employment will be taken into account for consideration of their pension in terms of paragraph 4 above as if they were drawing the dearness relief. Their pay will be re-fixed w.e.f. 01.09.2006 with reference to consolidated pension becoming admissible to them. Dearness Relief with effect from 01.01.2007 will, however, not be admissible to them during the period of employment/ re-employment.

10. Since the consolidated pension / family pension arrived at as per paragraph 4 includes dearness relief sanctioned @ 24% only. As such dearness relief will be admissible with effect from 01.01.2007 in accordance with the revised scheme of dearness relief for which orders are being issued separately. The payment made since 01.01.2007 on account of three instalments of dearness relief sanctioned earlier from 01.01.2007, 01.07.2007 and 01.01.2008 vide Finance Department order No. F.13(1)FD(Rules)/2005 dated 16.08.2007, 25.02.2008 and 14.08.2008 respectively shall be adjusted against revised dearness relief becoming due on the consolidated pension / family pension with effect from 01.01.2007 and onwards.

11. The consolidated pension / family pension as worked out in accordance with provisions of para 4 above shall be treated as final 'Basic Pension' / 'Basic Family Pension' w.e.f. 01.09.2006 and shall qualify for grant of Dearness relief sanctioned thereafter.

Minimum Pension / Family Pension :

12. Where the consolidated pension / family pension in terms of paragraph 4 above works out to an amount less than Rs.3025/- the same shall be stepped upto Rs.3025/-. This will be regarded as pension / family pension w.e.f. 01.09.2006. In the case of pensioners who are in receipt of more than one pension, the floor ceiling of Rs.3025/- will apply to the total of all pensions taken together.

Permanent absorption in PSUs / Autonomous Bodies :

13. In cases of State Government employees who have been permanently absorbed in Public Sector Undertakings / Autonomous Bodies and have drawn one time lumpsum terminal benefit equal to 100% of their pension, their cases will not be covered by these orders even if one third of their pension was restored.

Non accrual of arrears for the period from 01.09.2006 to 31.12.2006 :

14. Notwithstanding anything contained in this order no arrears shall be payable for the period from 01.09.2006 to 31.12.2006 on account of consolidation of pension / family pension.

Table for calculating arrears :

15. A table indicating the existing pension including Dearness Pension if any, the consolidated pension and rates of difference of arrears to be paid from 01.01.2007 to 31.08.2008 is enclosed for ready reference.

16. The Procedure for payment of arrear :

- (i) The Pensioner / Family Pensioner shall surrender his/ her half of Pension Payment Order to the pension disbursing authority i.e. the branch of the Bank / Pension Payment Officer / Treasury Officer as the case may be, requesting for consolidation of his/ her pension / and family pension in the proforma enclosed with this order.
- (ii) The pension paying branch of the Bank will forward both the halves of Pension Payment Order indicating the amount of pension / family pension, dearness pension and dearness relief paid so far to the concerned Treasury Officer/ Pension Payment Officer. The Bank shall, however, even after sending the Pension Payment Order to the Pension Payment Officer/ Treasury Officer shall continue to make disbursing of pension / family pension at the last rate for a period of six months or receipt of the revised Pension Payment Order, whichever is earlier.

- (iii) The Pension Payment Officer / Treasury Officer shall consolidate pension and / or family pension on 01.09.2006 as per provision of this order.
- (iv) The Pension Payment Officer / Treasury Officer shall calculate the amount of arrear payable to the pensioner with the help of the table referred to in **paragraph 15** of this order and as per provisions of **paragraph 12**, as the case may be.
- (v) Where the pensioner was getting pension from a Bank, the authority for payment of arrear as well as the revised pension payment order shall be forwarded to the same branch of the Bank from which the pensioner was earlier getting pension by the Pension Payment Officer / Treasury Officer. **While authorising the monthly disbursement of pension, the amount of commuted portion if any, shall be deducted from the consolidated pension.**
- (vi) In case of death of a pensioner, the balance amount shall be payable to his nominee or legal heir, as the case may be.

17. It is considered desirable that the benefit of this order should reach the pensioner as expeditiously as possible. To achieve this object it is desired that all pension disbursing authorities should ensure that the procedure of revision in pension should be completed by 31.12.2008 positively.

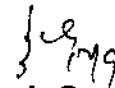
18. In the case of pensioners receiving pension outside the State the concerned Treasury Officer of that State shall consolidate/ revise the pension and / or family pension with effect from 01.09.2006 as per provision of this order. The Treasury Officer shall authorise payment of arrear amount on account of consolidation / revision of pension. The Treasury Officer shall follow the same procedure as has been indicated at **paragraph 16** of this order.

19. Payment of arrear. –

- (a) 50% of the arrear for the period from 01.01.2007 to 31.08.2008 shall be payable in cash during the current financial year 2008-2009; and
- (b) remaining 50% amount of arrear shall be payable during the next financial year 2009-2010, for which specific orders will be issued by the Government at appropriate time.

Provided that in the case of death of a pensioner/ family pensioner, as the case may be, the entire amount of arrear shall be paid in cash during the current financial year 2008-2009.

By Order of the Governor,



(Subhash Garg)

Principal Secretary to the Government

**APPLICATION FOR CONSOLIDATION / REVISION OF PRE-01.09.2006
PENSION / FAMILY PENSION**

(To be submitted in duplicate)

To,

The _____
(Pension Disbursing Authority)

Subject : Revision of Pension and / or Family Pension in terms of Finance
Department Order No. F.12(3)FD(Rules)/2008 dated **12.09.2008**.

Sir,

Kindly revise my pension and / or family pension entitlement shown in my PPO/
FPPO, in terms of the above mentioned order. The pensioners' half of PPO / FPPO is
enclosed. The requisite particulars are given below: -

1. Name of the applicant in block letters and full postal address.
2. Type of pension admissible.
3. Date of retirement/ date of death of the Government employee.
4. (a) Name of the deceased Government servant / pensioner in case of family pension
(Applicable only in cases where the applicant is a family pensioner)
- (b) Relation of applicant with the deceased employee / pensioner.
5. Date from which pension / family pension is being drawn.
6. Pension Payment Order (PPO) No.
7. Saving Bank Account No. and Name of the Bank

Witness :

Yours faithfully,

(Pensioner)

(Gazetted Officer)

NOTE : One copy to be retained by the Bank and one copy to be forwarded to the
Pension Payment Officer/ Treasury Officer alongwith both the halves of
PPO.

**GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
FINANCE DEPARTMENT
(RULES DIVISION)**

ORDER

No.F.12(4)FD(Rules)/2008

Jaipur, dated : 12th September, 2008

Subject :- Grant of Dearness Relief to State Government Pensioners.

The Governor is pleased to order that the State Government Pensioners who are in receipt of superannuation, retiring, invalid, compensation pension, family pension and extra-ordinary pension etc. shall be paid Dearness Relief at the rate as indicated below :-

Period	Rate of Dearness Relief per month
From 01.01.2007 to 30.06.2007	6% of Pension / Family Pension
From 01.07.2007 to 31.12.2007	9% of Pension / Family Pension
From 01.01.2008 to 30.06.2008	12% of Pension / Family Pension
From 01.07.2008 & onwards	16% of Pension / Family Pension

For the purpose of this order -

- (i) Pension/Family Pension in the case of pre-01.09.2006 retirees and where Family Pension was sanctioned prior to 01.09.2006, means the Consolidated Pension or Consolidated Family Pension, as the case may be, effective from 01.09.2006 in terms of Finance Department Memorandum No. F.12(3)FD(Rules)/2008 dated **12.09.2008**.
- (ii) In the case of pensioners who retire from service on or after 01.09.2006 or where family pension is sanctioned for the first time on or after 01.09.2006, Pension/Family Pension means the Basic Pension/Basic Family Pension, as the case may be, in terms of Finance Department Notification No. F.12(3)FD(Rules)/2008 dated **12.09.2008**
- (iii) Payment of Dearness Relief involving a fraction of a rupee shall be rounded off to the next higher rupee.
- (iv) Other provisions governing grant of dearness relief to pensioners' such as regulation of dearness relief during employment/re-employment, regulation of dearness relief where more than one pension is drawn etc., will remain unchanged.
- (v) This department Order No.F.13(1)FD(Rules)/2005 dated 16.08.2007, 25.02.2008 and 14.08.2008 sanctioning Dearness Relief to pensioners w.e.f. 01.01.2007, 01.07.2007 and 01.01.2008 respectively are hereby superseded. Payment on account of dearness relief made to pensioners / family pensioners in terms of

- these orders from 01.01.2007 will be adjusted against the dearness relief payable to them under the revised rates in terms of this order.
- (vi) This order shall also be applicable in case of Pensioners/Family Pensioners who are in receipt of provisional pension.
 - (vii) This order shall not be applicable in case of Old Age Pensions, Political Pensions or any other kind of similar pensions, which are not related to the service rendered under Government.
 - (viii) Dearness Relief at revised rates as above would also be admissible to pensioners who retired/retire from service of Panchayat Samiti or Zila Parishad and whose Pension Payment Orders have been issued by the Director, Local Fund Audit Department or Director, Pension and Pensioners' Welfare Department, Rajasthan, Jaipur.

Instructions for Pension Disbursing Authorities :

No payment of arrears on account of dearness relief from 01.01.2007 to 31.08.2008 as per this order should be made to pre-01.09.2006 pensioners/ family pensioners as the arrears in their case are to be paid with reference to the statement attached to this department Memorandum No. F.12(3)FD(Rules)/08 dated **12.09.2008**. The payment of arrears of dearness relief w.e.f. 01.09.2008 may be made to the pre-01.09.2006 pensioners/ family pensioners on the basis of this order.

The mode of payment of arrear on account of the aforesaid revision in the rates of dearness relief shall be the same as that of arrear of pension/ commutation/ gratuity as indicated in Finance Department Notification No.F.12(3)FD(Rules)/08 dated **12.09.2008**

By Order of the Governor,



(Subhash Garg)

Principal Secretary to the Government

**GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
FINANCE DEPARTMENT
(RULES DIVISION)**

NOTIFICATION

No.F.15(4) FD(Rules)/97

Jaipur, dated : 12th September, 2008

Sub. : - Rajasthan Civil Services (Commutation of Pension) Rules, 1996.

In exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to Article 309 of the Constitution of India, the Governor of Rajasthan hereby makes the following rules to amend further the Rajasthan Civil Services (Commutation of Pension) Rules, 1996, namely: -

1. These rules may be called the Rajasthan Civil Services (Commutation of Pension) (Amendment) Rules, 2008.
2. They shall come into force with effect from 01.01.2007.
3. In the aforesaid rules -
 - (i) The existing Government of Rajasthan's Decision No. 3 appearing below Rule 5 shall be substituted by the following namely: -

"(3) Commutation shall be allowed on the minimum pension of Rs.3025/- if the actual pension is less than Rs.3025/-."
 - (ii) below the existing Rule 9, the following shall be inserted as Government of Rajasthan's Decision: -

"Government of Rajasthan's Decision

The revised Table of Commutation Value for pension will be used for all commutations of pension which become absolute after the date of issue of this Notification. In the case of those pensioners, in whose case commutation of pension became absolute on or after 01.01.2007 but before the issue of this Notification, the pre-revised Table of Commutation Value for Pension will be used for payment of commutation of pension based on pre-revised pension. Such pensioners shall have an option to commute the amount of pension that has become additionally commutable on account of retrospective revision of pension. On exercising such an option by the pensioner, the revised Table of Commutation Value for pension will be used for the commutation of the additional amount of pension that has become commutable on account of retrospective revision of pension. In all cases where the date of retirement/ commutation of pension is on or after the date of issue of this Notification, the revised Table of Commutation Value for Pension will be used for commutation of entire pension."

- (iii) the Table - Commutation Values, for a pension of Re.1 per annum, shall be substituted by the following, namely: -

TABLE

See rules 8, 24 (7), 26(5) and 27(1) and (2)

Commutation values, for a pension of Re.1 per annum.

Age next birth day	Commutation value expressed as number of years purchase.	Age next birth day	Commutation value expressed as number of years purchase.
20	9.188	51	8.808
21	9.187	52	8.768
22	9.186	53	8.724
23	9.185	54	8.678
24	9.184	55	8.627
25	9.183	56	8.572
26	9.182	57	8.512
27	9.180	58	8.446
28	9.178	59	8.371
29	9.176	60	8.287
30	9.173	61	8.194
31	9.169	62	8.093
32	9.164	63	7.982
33	9.159	64	7.862
34	9.152	65	7.731
35	9.145	66	7.591
36	9.136	67	7.431
37	9.126	68	7.262
38	9.116	69	7.083
39	9.103	70	6.897
40	9.090	71	6.703
41	9.075	72	6.502
42	9.059	73	6.296
43	9.040	74	6.085
44	9.019	75	5.872
45	8.996	76	5.657
46	8.971	77	5.443
47	8.943	78	5.229
48	8.913	79	5.018
49	8.881	80	4.812
50	8.846	81	4.611

[Basis : LIC (94-96) Ultimate Tables and 8.00% interest]

By Order of the Governor,

Subhash Garg
(Subhash Garg)

Principal Secretary to the Government

**GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
FINANCE DEPARTMENT
(RULES DIVISION)**

NOTIFICATION

No.F.12(3) FD(Rules)/2008

Jaipur, dated : 12th September, 2008

Subject : Amendments in the Rajasthan Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1996.

In exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to Article 309 of the Constitution of India, the Governor of Rajasthan hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Rajasthan Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1996, namely :-

1. These rules may be called the Rajasthan Civil Services (Pension) (Amendment) Rules, 2008.
2. These rules shall be deemed to have come into force with effect from 01.09.2006 excepting where otherwise specifically provided.
3. In the said rules –
 - (i) in the second proviso to Rule 7, in sub-rule (3) of Rule 42, in sub-rule (2) of Rule 43 and in clause (b) of sub-rule (2) of Rule 54, the existing words "Rupees One thousand two hundred seventy five per mensem" shall be substituted by the words "Rupees Three thousand twenty five per mensem".
 - (ii) the existing Rule 45 (excluding existing Notes, GRD and clarification appearing thereunder) shall be substituted by the following namely :-

"The expression "emoluments" used for the purposes of Pension, Service Gratuity and Retirement/Death Gratuity means sum of pay in the running pay band plus grade pay and NPA/ NCA, if any, which a Government servant was receiving / or to which he was entitled to immediately before his retirement or on the date of his death or on the basis of average of last ten months immediately before the date of retirement, whichever is beneficial.

Provided that the amount of Dearness Allowance admissible on sum of running pay band plus grade pay and NPA / NCA, if any at the time of retirement/ death of a Government servant, as the case may be, shall be treated as part of emoluments for the purpose of grant of retirement gratuity/ death gratuity.

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN'S DECISION

For the purpose of computing average emoluments in the case of Government servants who have opted for fixation of pay in the revised pay and retire within 10 months from the date of coming over to the revised pay, basic pay for 10 months period preceding retirement shall be calculated by taking into account pay as follows:

- (i) For the period during which pay is drawn in revised pay - Pay drawn in the prescribed pay band plus the applicable grade pay.
 - (ii) For the remaining period during which pay is drawn in pre-revised scale of pay- Basic Pay plus dearness pay and actual D.A. appropriate to the basic pay at the rates in force on 01.01.2006 drawn during the relevant period."
- (iii) in clause (a) of sub-rule (2) of Rule 54, the existing words and figures "(the highest pay in the Government is Rs.24,850/- since 1.7.1996)" shall be substituted by the words and figures "(the highest pay in the Government is Rs.77,000/- since 01.09.2006)".
- (iv) below existing Rule 54, the following new Rule 54A shall be inserted, namely: -

"54A. Amount of Additional Pension / Family Pension -

The quantum of pension / family pension available to the old pensioners/ family pensioners, on attaining the age of 80 years or above shall be increased as follows: -

Age of Pensioner / Family Pensioner	Additional Quantum of Pension / Family Pension
From 80 years to less than 85 years	20% of basic pension / family pension
From 85 years to less than 90 years	30% of basic pension / family pension
From 90 years to less than 95 years	40% of basic pension / family pension
From 95 years to less than 100 years	50% of basic pension / family pension
100 years or more	100% of basic pension / family pension

The Pension Sanction Authorities should ensure that the date of birth and the age of a pensioner / family pensioner is invariably indicated in the pension payment order and in the form of details of family to facilitate payment of additional

pension / family pension by the Pension Disbursing Authority as soon as it becomes due. The amount of additional pension / family pension will be shown distinctly in the pension payment order. For example, in case where a pensioner / family pensioner is more than 80 years of age and his pension / family pension is Rs.10,000/- p.m., the pension / family pension will be shown as (i) Basic Pension/ Family Pension = Rs.10,000/- and (ii) Additional Pension / Family Pension = Rs.2,000/- per month. The pension / family pension on his attaining the age of 85 years will be shown as (i) Basic Pension / Family Pension = Rs.10,000/- and (ii) Additional Pension / Family Pension = Rs.3,000/- per month."

- (v) the existing figures and words "3.5 lacs rupees" appearing in first proviso of sub-rule (1) of Rule 55 shall be substituted by the figures and words "10.00 lacs rupees" w.e.f. 01.01.2007.
- (vi) the existing clause (i) of Rule 62 shall be substituted by the following, namely: -
"(i) Family pension shall be admissible @ 30% of emoluments subject to a minimum of Rs.3025/- per month and maximum of 30% of the highest pay in the Government (the highest pay in the Government is Rs.77000/- since 01.09.2006.)"
- (vii) in Government of Rajasthan's Decision No. 1 appearing below Rule 127, the existing words and figures "carrying pay in pay scales where the maximum does not exceeds Rs.8000" shall be substituted by the words and figures "whose sum of pay in the running pay band and grade pay does not exceed Rs.18100".
- (viii) in clause (e) of Rule 152, 153, 155 and 157, the existing words and figures "Rs.26000/-" shall be substituted by the words and figures "Rs.80,000/-".
- (ix) in Appendix - V - Rules regulating the compassionate fund of the Government of Rajasthan, the existing sub-rule (6) of Rule 4 shall be substituted by the following, namely: -
"(6) As a general rule, a grant will not be given if the sum of pay in the running pay band and grade pay of the deceased government servant exceeded Rs.35000/- per mensem.
Provided that in case of family not entitled to family pension, grant from the Fund may be sanctioned in deserving cases even though the sum of pay in the running pay band and grade pay exceeded Rs.35000/- per mensem."

4. **Non-accrual of arrears:** The State Government has revised the pay scales of Government servants with effect from 01.09.2006 with the conditions that no arrears would accrue for the period from 01.09.2006 to 31.12.2006. Accordingly on the same lines in respect of Government servants retired / died while in service during the period 01.09.2006 to 31.12.2006, no arrear of pension shall accrue upto 31.12.2006. Pension / Family Pension calculated on pre-revised pay shall only be payable upto 31.12.2006 and the pension / family pension on revised notional pay and as per the above mentioned amendments shall be payable with effect from 01.01.2007. The Commutation and Gratuity to these Government servants shall not be admissible on the revised notional pay and the amount of Commutation / Gratuity already paid / payable on the pre-revised pay shall be treated as final.
5. **Payment of arrear. –**
- (a) 50% of the arrear for the period from 01.01.2007 to 31.08.2008 shall be payable in cash during the current financial year 2008-2009; and
 - (b) remaining 50% amount of arrear shall be payable during the next financial year 2009-2010, for which specific orders will be issued by the Government at appropriate time.

Provided that in the case of death of a pensioner/ family pensioner, as the case may be, the entire amount of arrear shall be paid in cash during the current financial year 2008-2009.

By Order of the Governor,



(Subhash Garg)

Principal Secretary to the Government