

No. 17016/08/2016-IFS-I
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

6th Floor, Prithvi Wing,
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road,
Ali Ganj, New Delhi-110003.
Dated the 16th March, 2017.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Guidelines regarding change of cadre of Indian Forest Service Officers appointed against vacancies reserved for Physically Handicapped (PH) category.

The undersigned is directed to refer to the subject cited above and to say that change of cadre of Indian Forest Service Officers is governed by rule 5(2) of the Indian Forest Service (Cadre) rules, 1966 and Guidelines as contained in DOPT's O.M. No. 13017/16/2003-AIS (i) dated 08.11.2004.

2. This Ministry has been receiving requests from Indian Forest Service Officers appointed against vacancies reserved for physically handicapped candidates for change their cadre to a preferred cadre including their homes cadre on the grounds of their hardship. Therefore, a need has been felt to have suitable policy by allowing separate dispensation for PH category officers in the matter of change of cadre.

3. Accordingly, the Competent Authority has approved the following guidelines for change of cadre of Indian Forest Service Officers appointed against vacancies reserved for Physically Handicapped (PH) category, with immediate effect :-

- (i) A request/application for change of cadre by an IFS officer appointed against a vacancy reserved for PH category has to be made to the M/o EF & CC through the parent cadre /IGNFA as the case may be so as to reach the Ministry within three months from the date of notification of the cadre allocation in the official website of the Ministry. Along with application, documents in support of the ground(s) in which cadre change is sought, should also be enclosed. An 'advance copy' of the application must be sent to M/o EF & CC directly by the officer along with enclosures.
- (ii) In the said application, the officer appointed against vacancies reserved for PH Category while applying for change of cadre is required to indicate along with his/her request, a minimum of three states, in the immediate proximity/ neighborhood of their Home State, to which they would like to be transferred, in order of priority. The proximity or neighborhood as mentioned would mean States which are geographically

contiguous to the home state of the officer. In the absence of three such contiguous states, the state(s) closest to the home state in term of distance would be admissible.

- (iii) The Government may, on a case to case basis and taking into account [based on the report of medical board] the extreme hardship faced by an IFS officer appointed against a vacancy reserved for PH category, permit his/her transfer to a cadre in the immediate neighborhood/proximity of his/her Home State for the purpose of mitigating such hardship. No such transfer to the Home State of the officer shall be permitted.
 - (iv) In case the transfer is agreed to 'in principle' by the Government (M/o EF &CC), the concurrence of the concerned state Governments shall be sought, as per the order of preference sited by the officer. In case none of the preferred states are willing, the Central Government may, after consulting another neighboring State Government willing to accept the officer, may affect such transfer. The decision of the Central Government on the selection of State/cadre shall be final and binding on the officer.
 - (v) These guidelines will be implemented with prospective effect. However, the officers already appointed to IFS against vacancies reserved for PH category and suffering extreme hardship in the cadre allocated, shall be given one time option to exercise their choice for change of cadre under these guidelines within three months of the date of notification of these guidelines in the M/o EF & CC website. Such application should be made through the cadre where the officers are allocated presently.
- (4) The provisions of DoPTs O.M No.13617/16/2003-AIS-I dated the 8th November,2004 regarding change of cadre of All India service Officers will stand modified to the above extent.

Abhijit Roy
16/3/2017
(Abhijit Roy)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

To :-

- (1) Establishment Officer and Additional Secretary (EO& AS), DoPT, North Block, New Delhi.
- (2) Prime Minister's Office, South Block, New Delhi;
- (3) Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
- (4) The Director, IGNTA.
- (5) NIC for placing the notification on official website.

Copy also to :-

- (i) The Chief Secretaries of all States/ Cadres for information with the request that the content of this O.M. may be brought to the notice of all Indian Forest Service officers appointed against PH Category and borne on their State cadre, for their information and appropriate action.
- (ii) To all the IAS officers appointed against PH category.

Copy for information to :-

- i. PS to MoS EF & CC,
- ii. PPS to Secretary (EF & CC),
- iii. Director (AIS), DoP&T.