

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
REVENUE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

No. RDM-LAA-CLRFIC-0004-2017 / 8938 R&DM dated 15.3.2019
From

Nikunja B. Dhal, IAS
Principal Secretary to Government

To

All Collectors

Sub: Withdrawal of Financial Powers of retired OAS/ORS officers engaged in land acquisition projects as LAOs/ Spl LAOs.

Madam/ Sir,

As you are aware, retired OAS /ORS officers have been engaged as Land Acquisition Officers/ Spl Land Acquisition Officers/ Officer on Special Duty in different projects and also, they have been allowed to enjoy the financial power and handle huge cash during the course of their duties. In certain cases, the officers have been specially designated to perform the functions of a Collector under section 3(c) of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 or u/s 3(g) of the RFCTLAR&R Act, 2013, who are also drawing and disbursing cash. Similarly, retired officers have been engaged as Competent Authority for Land Acquisition under the NH Act, who are also handling huge cash. In certain other cases, Project proponents/ Collectors have engaged retired officers as Spl LAOS/ OSDs in different projects.

2. In certain instances, misappropriation of Government cash committed by such officers has been reported and as the officers have already retired from service, recovery of such amount becomes difficult. Finance Department have taken strong exception to engagement of and delegation of financial power to retired officers in these posts.

3. In view of the above, it is instructed that following steps may be taken immediately to maintain financial discipline in land acquisition works;

- i. The financial power of all retired OAS/ ORS officers engaged as LAO/ Spl LAO/ OSD in land acquisition projects stands withdrawn with effect

from 31.03.2019. The concerned officer will no longer act as drawing and disbursing officer and cannot handle cash. The Collector will intimate the same to the concerned officers as well as to the project proponents.

- ii. Collector shall make local arrangement and keep an experienced OAS/ORS officer in charge of the LA works for the purpose of handling cash.
- iii. However, the officers who have been designated to function as Collector under the LA Act, 1894 or RFCTLAR&R Act, 2013 or as CALA under NH Act, 1956 may continue to perform other functions/ duties of the designated officer.
- iv. Collectors should avoid engaging or renewing engagements of retired officers henceforth in posts dealing with cash.
- v. The alternative arrangement should be ensured by 31st March 2019 positively.

Yours faithfully,

J 15/3/2019

Memo No. *8839* /R&DM

Principal Secretary to Government
dtd. *15-3-2019*

Copy forwarded to W.R. Department/ Commerce & Transport Department/ Works Department/ Industries Department/Energy Department for information and necessary action.

[Signature]
15/3/19

Memo No. *8840* /R&DM

Additional Secretary to Government
dtd. *15-3-2019*

Copy forwarded to Secretary, Board of Revenue, Cuttack/ all RDCs for information and necessary action.

[Signature]
15/3/19

Memo No. *8841* /R&DM

Additional Secretary to Government
dtd. *15-3-2019*

Copy forwarded to FA Cell/ LA(B)/LA(C)/ R&R Cell / IMU Cell of Revenue & DM Department for information and necessary action.

[Signature]
15/3/19
Additional Secretary to Government