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GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA
FINANCE DEPARTMENT

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Bhubaneswar, the 26th May, 2012

Sub : **Change of option under Orissa Revised Scales of Pay Rules.**

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1.6.12

Government employees are generally allowed to exercise option in every Revised Scales of Pay Rules to continue in the existing scale of pay upto a certain date to get the pay fixed in the revised scale so as to reap maximum benefit at the time of revision of pay in the revised scale. For the aforesaid purpose, two to three months' time limit is specified under each O.R.S.P. Rules. The employees who do not exercise such option within the prescribed time frame are deemed to have opted for the revised scale of pay from the date of effect of O.R.S.P. Rules. Option once exercised under Revised Scales of Pay Rules is final unless the competent authority holds any view otherwise consistent with the provisions of such rules. Thus, the responsibility of choosing the appropriate date to come over to the revised scale rests solely with the Government employee, who has to be very careful while exercising option under O.R.S.P. Rules in order to reap the maximum financial benefit out of pay fixation from a particular date.

2. There are, however, certain cases which deserve consideration for the reason that in such cases either the earlier option becomes infructuous due to a later decision of Government or a Court or the circumstances requiring change of earlier option are beyond the control of the Government employee. Except in cases of these categories there is hardly any justification, if at all, to entertain a request or prayer for a change of the option already exercised.

In exceptional circumstances where the principles have been decided in Finance Department Office Memorandum No.40493/F dated 22.9.99 in supersession of all previous instructions in this regard that henceforward change of option may be considered by the Finance Department in exceptional circumstances only. But, there is no specific time limit for Government employees to change earlier options in different O.R.S.P. Rules under exceptional-circumstances where as every O.R.S.P. Rules has a specific time limit for exercise of option. It is noticed that a number of cases are being referred to Finance Department to accept the change of option on the above ground after a considerable long period, at times even more than a decade past from the date of issue of the order, in absence of specific time limit. Instances have also come to the knowledge that the employees after retirement have applied for change of option citing a pretty old order of their service period. There is hardly any justification to consider such stale proposals.

4. In order to regulate the proposals for change of option under different O.R.S.P. Rules at a belated stage, Government have been pleased to decide that the proposal for change of option under different O.R.S.P. Rules in terms of Finance Department Office Memorandum No.40493/F dated 22.9.1999 is to be considered only in case where the change of option has been applied for and submitted to the concerned authority as per rules within three months from the date of issue of the orders carrying retrospective service benefits under exceptional circumstances as defined in aforesaid Finance Department Office Memorandum. No such proposals are to be entertained after expiry of the three months stipulation from the date of issue of the order.

✓ 5. Government employees who have not changed their option as yet in the above situation but desire to have the benefit in different O.R.S.P. Rules in terms of Finance Department O.M. No.40493/F dated 22.9.1999, will have to apply for change of option as per rules and submit the same to the authority concerned within three months from the date of issue of this Office Memorandum, otherwise their cases shall not to be considered.

