

DEPARTMENT OF ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM, GANGTOK.

A-Criteria for Grants- in-Aids to Religious Institutions:

Ecclesiastical Affairs Department, Government of Sikkim, has been extending financial assistance for repair, renovation, reconstruction, new construction, etc. of Monasteries and other religious institutions in the state on need basis and subject to availability of fund. Most of the financial assistance is given in the form of out –right grants. If the structure of the religious Institution is more than 100 years old the proposal will be referred to Culture and Heritage Department for conservation and preservation under their scheme.

The following documents may be furnished in support of the application to the Government for Grants-in-aid.

- 1) Name of the Committee Members with their complete postal address/Telephone/Mobile No.
- 2) Land Document (Parcha) (copy)
- 3) Institution Registration Certificate (Copy)
- 4) Plan and Estimate of proposed work.(if value of the work exceeds Rs. 5 Lakhs)
- 5) Whether any grant received from the Government earlier for the purpose & if yes, name of the Department, amount and date.

B-Rules/Conditions for Grants in aid to religious institutions:

- Grant of financial assistance will be considered for public religious institutions or seats of High Lamas catering to the spiritual needs of the general public only. No request from individuals for private institutions will be entertained.

- Application for grants for monasteries which are enrolled in Sangha Voter list should be submitted under the signatures and the seal of Duchi of the monastery concerned, dully recommended by MLA, Sangha. Whereas in case of all other religious institutions, the application should be submitted under the signatures and the seal of concerned registered Committee, duly recommended by Area MLA.
- 100% funding will be provided for works relating to monasteries and other religious institutions which are more than 100 years old depending on availability of fund and the importance of the institution. For others, maximum financial assistance possible from the Department is to the extent of the 50% of the estimated cost against equal share of public participation in cash or kind is assured, depending on availability of the fund with the Department.
 - Selection of genuine cases and quantum of grants within the ceiling limit to be released shall be decided in the high level meeting convened and chaired by the Chief Minister/ Minister Ecclesiastical. The decision taken in the meeting shall be final. However, in exception cases, the individual recommendation of Chief Minister/ Minister Ecclesiastical/Sangha MLA will be considered for grants separately.
 - (a) For grants exceeding Rs.5.00 lakh (Rupees five Lakhs) only and above, a detailed estimate as per the prevailing schedule of rates is the pre-requisite for release of Grants-in-aid in respect of Civil Works.
 - (b) For works other than Civil works, a provisional estimate is to be furnished.
 - Schemes are executed either by DUCHI or the recognized Management Committee for Manilhakhangs/ other Religious Institutions.
 - The purpose of the grant and period within which such grant is to be utilized shall be specified in the sanction order by the grant releasing authority.
 - The grant sanctioned and released should invariably be utilized for the purpose for which the grant is sought and release.
 - Any saving occurring in the grant released by the Government should be surrendered by the grantee within the current financial year.

- Grants administratively approved within the ceiling of Rs.1.00 lakh (Rupees one lakh) only in each case will be sanctioned by Secretary, Ecclesiastical Affairs Department at a time or on installments depending on the progress of the work in each case.
- The Department shall keep proper records of progress of work as well as utilization of fund so released.
- Quantum of grants admissible in each case of religious institutions shall be subject to availability of the fund.
- The department does not encourage new construction of religious institution unless it is genuinely needed for new areas/places with major share of public initiative.

C- Particulars	Purpose	Maximum ceiling of grants
• Monasteries and other Religious Institutions which are 100 years and above.	Repair / renovation/ restoration	90% of cost subject to availability of fund.
• All Religious Institutions which are dating 50 years and above but below 100 years.	-- do --	50% of cost subject to availability of fund.
• Other existing religious Institutions not falling under above categories.	-- do --	25% of cost subject to availability of fund.
• Construction of new religious Institutions		25% of the total estimated cost and in case of Major Works costing more than Rs.10.00 lakhs, the construction progress should reach at least up to 50% and subject to availability of fund.

• **D- MONITORING OF SCEHMES:**

- The Ecclesiastical Affairs Department shall monitor all the sanctioned schemes through its field officials i.e. Gendrung, Under Secretary and Inspectors.
- The Department, if necessary, will seek the technical assistance of other works department of the State Government to ensure quality of work.
- Utilization Report in respect of grants up to Rs.1.00 lakh shall be submitted within 6 (six) months from the date of receipt of grants by the concerned Institution / Monastery.
- Utilization Report for grants exceeding Rs.1.00 lakh and above up to Rs.5.00 lakh shall be submitted within 1 (one) year with a statement of the account supported by vouchers, incurred for the works, by the concerned Monastery/ Institution.
- **E- AUTHORITY WHO CAN RECEIVE THE GRANT ON BEHALF OF THE RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS:**
 - Duchi, in case of full –fledged Monasteries which shall be represented by Dorjee Lopen, U-Zed, Chothimpa and Chikhyap/Dungyik or monk authorized by DUCHI.
 - Other religious institutions shall be represented by a registered Committee consisting of President, General Secretary and Treasurer or a member authorized by the Committee.

NOTE: Grants for performance of religious ceremonies/Tenchi Shapten (Sarvajanik Puja) and religious festivals are not covered by this memorandum.

BY ORDER.

**SECRETARY
ECCLESIASTICAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT**