

Regd.AD

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
PANCHAYAT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (B) DEPARTMENT
JANATA BHAWAN :: DISPUR :: GUWAHATI-6**

Dated Dispur, 10-07-2024

ORDER

ECF No.247182-PRD(B)/417071 : Whereas, while Smti. Bakul Rani Mahanta was serving as Block Development Officer, Chapar Salkocha Development Block under Dhubri Zilla Parishad, a complaint had been lodged against her by the All Adivasi Students Association of Assam(AASAA), Dhubri District Committee alleging rampant corruption done in Chapar Salkocha Dev Block.

Whereas, an enquiry was conducted by the S.D.O(Civil), Bilasipara through the Circle Officer, Chapar Revenue Circle and the enquiry report disclosed the fact of her involvement in the corruption in construction of IAY Houses in Falimari Krishnakali G.P. under Chapar Salkocha Dev Block.

Whereas, while Smti. Bakul Rani Mahanta was serving as Block Development Officer, Chapar Salkocha Development Block, an FIR was lodged against her on 11/06/2017 at Chapar Police Station by the Circle Officer, Chapar Revenue Circle. During the spot enquiry on the complaint submitted by the All Adivasi Students Association of Assam(AASAA), Dhubri District Committee, it was found that the then BDO had submitted a list of beneficiaries of IAY Houses of Falimari Krishnakali G.P for the year 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 certifying them as completed against the non-completed IAY Houses in collusion with the concerned Junior Engineer and the Panchayat representative of the Falimari Krishnakali G.P. In view of cheating upon the public money by using the authority of her office as BDO for personal gains, it had led to her arrest by the police on 08/11/2017.

Whereas, while Smti. Bakul Rani Mahanta was serving as Block Development Officer, Chapar Salkocha Development Block, she had deliberately and knowingly submitted a false certificate against the IAY houses in Falimari Krishnakali G.P under Chapar Salkocha Development Block showing them as completed in collusion with the concerned Junior Engineer and the Panchayat representative by which she misled the higher authority for wrong transaction of public money allotted to those IAY Houses.

Whereas Smti. Bakul Rani Mahanta, the then BDO, Chapar Salkocha Development Block was arrested by the Officer in Charge, Chapar Police Station on 08-11-2017 in connection with a case of IAY houses vide Case No.206/17 U/S 420/406/409/34 IPC. Subsequently, Smti Bakul Rani Mahanta was placed under suspension vide No.PRD-12/586/2017-PRD(B)/2 dated 13-12-2017.

Whereas a Show Cause Notice was issued to Smti. Bakul Rani Mahanta vide No.PRD-12/586/2017-PRD(B)/40 dated 04-05-2018 to which she had submitted her reply vide letter dated 15-06-2018 and prayed to exonerate her of the charges and allow to work as BDO by withdrawal of her suspension. She was reinstated in service vide No.PRD-12/586/2017-PRD(B)/163 dated 29-05-2019.

Whereas, as per Enquiry Report, it was revealed that there were 14-15 nos of IAY Houses during 2014-15 which could not be completed due to non-cooperation of the then J.E, Shri Dilip Chakravarty. As such, the Delinquent Officer herself completed the construction of those IAY houses before she was arrested by police.

Whereas as per Enquiry Report, it is found that Shri Abdul Hasor, the then President of Chapar Salkocha Anchalik Panchayat whose statements were recorded, stated that he had come to know from the local people that there were no incomplete IAY house in that G.P and all IAY houses were completed after receipt of complaint from the All Adivasi Students Association Assam(AASAA).

Whereas, as per enquiry report, Shri Dilip Chakravarty, the then Junior Engineer stated that the targeted number of IAY houses in the Falimari Gram Panchayat was 510 for the Financial Year 2014-15. At the time of complaint lodged by the AASAA there were 23 nos of IAY houses in incomplete position. The rest 487 nos of IAY houses were already completed, but later on 22 nos of IAY houses were completed as the house was made bigger in size by the beneficiaries themselves beyond the approved model, estimate and specification.

Whereas, as per Enquiry Report it had been found that the main complaint was against the concerned Junior Engineer and the Panchayat representative. Smti. Bakul Rani Mahanta, the then BDO, Chapar Salkocha Development Block is also partially responsible as she did not make adequate and required field inspection and supervision of construction work of IAY houses till completion.

Whereas, Smti. Bakul Rani Mahanta had submitted a written representation against the enquiry report vide letter dated 07-11-2022 where she had prayed to exonerate her from these charges and exempt her from imposing the penalty of withholding one increment as suggested by the Enquiry Officer. She has further prayed to treat her period of suspension as regular duty.

Whereas, Smti. Bakul Rani Mahanta retired from service on superannuation on 31-03-2024 and so as per provisions of the Assam Services (Disciplinary & Appeal) Rules, 1964, file was moved to APSC for views regarding decision of the Department to impose a penalty of withholding one third of the pension which to be deducted for five months as per Rule 21 of the Assam (Service) Pension Rules and the Commission agreed to the decision of the Government.

In views of the above, the Governor of Assam is pleased to dispose of the Departmental Proceeding drawn against Smti. Bakul Rani Mahanta, the then Block Development Officer, Chapar Salkocha Development Block, Dhubri (now retired) by imposing a penalty of withholding one third of the pension which may be deducted for five months as per Rule 21 of the Assam (Service) Pension Rules, 1969 and the period spent under suspension is to be treated as on duty for all purposes.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Assam,

Signed by

J B Ekka

Date: 10-07-2024 19:22:04
Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,
Panchayat & Rural Development Department.

MemoECF No. 247182-PRD(B)/417071-A

Dated Dispur, 10-07-2024

Copy to :-

1. The Accountant General (A&E), Assam, Maidamgaon, Beltola, Guwahati –29.
2. The Commissioner, Panchayat and Rural Development, Assam, Juripar, Panjabari, Guwahati – 37.
3. The District Commissioner, Dhubri/ Goalpara, Assam.
4. The Chief Executive Officer, Dhubri /Goalpara Zilla Parishad, Assam.
5. The Block Development Officer, Krishnai Development Block, Goalpara / Chapar Salkocha Development Block, Dhubri, Assam.
6. The Treasury Officer,
7. P.S to the Hon'ble Minister, Panchayat and Rural Development, Assam, Dispur, Guwahati.

8. P.S. to the Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Panchayat and Rural Development Department, Dispur, Guwahati –6.
9. Smti. Bakul Rani Mahanta, Retd. Block Development Officer for information.

By order etc.,
Signed by

Achitra Sonowal

Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,
Panchayat and Rural Development Department

Date: 15-07-2024 12:09:24