

MANAN KUMAR MISHRA
Senior Advocate
Chairman
Bar Council of India



Date: 24.03.2020

To,

1. **Hon'ble Shri Narendra Modi Ji,**
The Prime Minister of India, New Delhi
2. **Hon'ble Chief Minister/s of all the State/s.**

Sub.: Urgent Appeal (on behalf Legal Fraternity who are young and not financially well off/needy) to provide a minimum sum of Rs.20,000/- p.m. (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only) as subsistence allowance in order to enable them and their families to subsist and survive these trying times of Corona Virus from Centre Funds and State Government Funds and/or jointly by either providing for the same directly or through Advocate Welfare Fund of the respective State Bar Council/s.

Sir,

The Bar Council of India, would like to make a fervent and urgent request to your good selves to kindly make a provision for providing a minimum subsistence allowance of Rs.20,000/- p.m. (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only) for young and/or not financially well off Advocates/needy Advocates, who are staying and practicing in the country (being enrolled with the State Bar Councils) from Centre Funds and/or State Government Funds and/or jointly by either providing for the same directly or through Advocate Welfare Fund of the respective State Bar Council/s.

The entire world and entire country is passing through the most difficult time which we have ever witnessed in our life time owing to the menace of Corona Virus.

All Professions except those providing service in essential service sectors have virtually gone into a lock down mode (and that is advisable too), as the only way to stop the further outbreak and spread is by way of social distancing and isolation. However, Advocates and courts are still almost functioning albeit in a limited/restrictive mode where important matters are being heard with only Advocates of both sides, besides the Hon'ble Judge, being present to argue, as in most civil case clients and parties are not required to be present in court.

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The Profession of Advocacy is a noble Profession and we are doing our bit in these trying times as appearing in courts and pleading on behalf of our clients help in keeping the legal and rightful social balance alive as human rights, title and interest and legal rights cannot be allowed to be violated even in such trying times. Our duty is nothing short of social duty, responsibility and service, which we are still discharging. Thus those of our Advocates fraternity, attending and pleading in courts are not free from being infected from/with the Virus inspite of best precautions.

Respected Sirs,

Advocate Fraternity has no social security and if anything God Forbid happens to our brother/ and sister/s, then his/her family, may be forced to lead a pitiful life, full of deprivation and starvation as most of or brother and sisters of the Fraternity are the sole or chunk bread earners of their families including wife, husband, children and aged parents.

It is only a handful of 10% Advocates in the country who can be comfortably stated to be in a position to survive and subsist without any earning during this time of crisis

Our Advocate brothers and sisters are self respecting and maximum of them earn and live by the day or earnings of the week, However in such a time of crisis, when the courts are working in a restricted manner, and clients out of justified precaution, and fear are not flocking the courts, the work and earning opportunities have ceased.

Therefore, many young, and/or not financially well off/needy Advocates are finding it exceedingly difficult to make ends meet. It is a question of keeping themselves and their families alive, by providing them with basic food and taking care of there medicinal and health needs. The families of many Advocates have come to the stage of starvation and soon huge numbers will follow suit.

Respected Sir, it is the primary duty of every welfare State to take care of it's citizens and provide adequate social security to it's people.

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Therefore, in the light of the above, we beseech and call upon our beloved Prime Minister and all the Hon'ble Chief Ministers to kindly provide a subsistence allowance of Rs.20,000/- p.m. (Rupees Twenty Thousand Only) immediately on a monthly basis to all such young, and/or, financially not well off/ needy Advocates of each State who seek such monitory assistance either from Centre Funds and/or State Government Funds and/or jointly by either providing for the same directly or through Advocate Welfare Fund of the respective State Bar Council/s.

We request you to consider our request with compassion.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister is requested to allocate such necessary funds and provide assistance to the concerned Advocates directly through the State Governments and/or also direct the State Governments to do the needful, and/or the Centre and the State Governments may join hands together for this cause and may provide for the same jointly and directly through the State Governments, or transfer necessary funds to the Advocates Welfare Fund of each State Bar Council.

We realize that the entire country is under stress and hence we are not asking for such allowance to all Advocates but to those of them who register with you directly or through the State Bar Council at your help desk.

Kindly create an helpline number, an email and a whatsapp number for such purpose and kindly allocate funds/subsistence allowance directly or through the State Governments and/or through the State Bar Council as otherwise, deprivation of basic and essential facilities will surely lead them to starvation, illness and we dare not utter, even further. This can be also got done through District Administration.

Sir(s), Advocates have been amongst the highest tax payers of the country and in a country where only a minuscule percentage of the population pays We would request you to use our tax payers Advocates, money and your resources and funds to provide for financial assistance to young and/ or, financially not well off/ needy Advocates.

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Sir, we repeat, we the Advocates of the country are still, even in the face of adversity and risk of health and life discharging our social duty, and for those of us, who are not in a position to get opportunities to earn their bread and butter due the crisis are/is required to be taken care of and provided for by the Central/State Government/s.

Obliged!

(Manan Kumar Mishra)
Chairman
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