

F. No. J-12012/1/2021-Judicial
Government of India
Ministry of Law & Justice
Department of Legal Affairs
(Judicial Section)

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi,
Dated 5th April, 2021

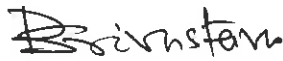
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub: Payment of professional fee towards appearance / consultation made through 'Video Conferencing' to Law Officers / Panel Counsel – regarding.

This Department has been receiving references from various Ministries / Departments seeking clarification about payment of professional fee to Law Officers and panel counsel in lieu of their appearance before various courts/tribunals and consultations made with the Government officials through 'Video Conferencing' as there is no mention of appearance / consultation through 'Video Conferencing' in various OMs of this Department on subject of applicable fee schedule to Law Officers and to various categories of panel counsel.


2. In this regard, it is stated that in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic various courts / tribunals in the country have resorted to hold proceedings through 'Video Conferencing'. Besides this, various SOPs issued by the Government of India to curb COVID-19 pandemic in offices also advised to hold meeting, as far as feasible, through 'Video Conferencing'. **In this backdrop, it is hereby clarified that appearance of Law Officers / Panel Counsel before courts / tribunals or consultation with them by Government officials through 'Video Conferencing' are valid and liable to be paid as per prescribed / admissible fee schedule of this Department and all such appearances / consultations may be treated as appearance / consultation within headquarter of Law Officer / Panel Counsel and may be paid accordingly.**

3. This is issued with the approval of competent authority.


(R. K. Srivastava)
Additional Legal Adviser

Copy for information to:-

1. All the Ministries / Departments for information and compliance.
2. PS to ML&J/PS to Law Secretary/PS to Legislative Secretary/All Additional Secretaries/ PS to all JS&LA in the Main Sectt./all the sections in the Department of Legal Affairs.
3. The Incharge, Central Agency Section, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi.
4. The Incharge of Branch Secretariats at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Bengaluru.
5. The Incharge, Litigation (High Court/CAT) Section, High Court of Delhi, New Delhi.
6. The Incharge, Litigation (Lower Court) Section, Tis Hazari Courts, New Delhi.
7. The Pay & Accounts Office, Department of Legal Affairs, New Delhi.
8. To upload one copy of this OM on website of this Department i. e. www.legalaffairs.gov.in under the tab 'Judicial Section' inside the link 'Circulars pertaining to Litigation'.
9. Hindi unit, Department of Legal Affairs for Hindi translation of the order.
10. Guard File/Judicial Section with 5 spare copies.


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