

Financial Assistance to West Pakistani Refugees (updated on 30.08.2024)

West Pakistani Refugees (WPRs) are those who migrated from areas in the West Pakistan in the wake of partition in the year 1947 and settled in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, mainly in Jammu, Kathua and Rajouri districts of Jammu Division. The 5,764 migrated families were not treated as Permanent Residents in the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir. Though the WPRs are citizens of India and have the right to vote in parliamentary elections, they did not have the right to vote in the assembly and local body elections. They did not have the right to purchase property in the erstwhile state. The children of these WPRs could not take admission in the technical and professional institutions of the erstwhile state.

2. In order to reduce the hardships of WPRs, the Ministry of Home Affairs approved a rehabilitation package similar to the package implemented for the displaced persons families of POJK (1947) & Chhamb (1965 & 1971). The objective was to enable the WPR families living in J&K to run small business/self-employment venture or which can provide the families some assured and sustained earnings Accordingly, the scheme for providing one-time financial assistance of Rs.5.5 lakh per family to the 5764 WPR families with a total outlay of Rs. 317.02 crores was implemented on 13.06.2018 with the approval of the Standing Finance Committee (SFC), with the time-line as 31.03.2021. Due to non-receipt of authenticated proposals from the Govt. of J&K, there was no disbursement of financial assistance during the years 2018-19 and 2019-20. Hence, with the SFC approval, the scheme has been further extended up to 31.03.2024. Further, the Competent Authority of this Ministry has approved extension of the timeline of the scheme from 31/03/2024 to 31/03/2025 within the outlay Rs. 317.02 cr.

3. Under the scheme, financial assistance of Rs.5.5 lakh per family is disbursed by the Ministry of Home Affairs into the Aadhaar-linked bank accounts of eligible beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode. Government of J&K collects details of eligible WPR beneficiaries, authenticates them and uploads the details in the PFMS module. The year wise disbursements since inception of the scheme are as under:

Financial Year	Amount Disbursed	No. of Beneficiaries
2018-19	0.00	Nil
2019-20	0.00	Nil
2020-21	2,81,73,750.00	102
2021-22	11,69,71,251.00	314
2022-23	33,10,89,179.00	991
2023-24	34,99,99,222.00	1830
2024-25	5,92,94,071.00	304

4. However, with the removal of Article 370, the WPRs have the rights to vote in assembly/DDC elections and their children can get admission in professional colleges.

No. 12013/01 /2020-J&K
Government of India
Ministry of Home Affairs
Department of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Affairs

North Block, New Delhi.
Dated the 14th March, 2024.

To,

The Chief Secretary,
Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Civil Secretariat
Jammu.

Subject: Financial Assistance to families of West Pakistan Refugees (WPRs) settled in UT of Jammu and Kashmir – Extension of the time-line of the scheme from 31/03/2024/ to 31/03/2025 within the approved outlay of Rs.317.02 crore.

Sir,

Please refer to Govt. of J&K's letters No. DMRRR-ER/76/2021 dated 26/02/2024, wherein a request was made to this Ministry for considering extension of timeline of the scheme.

2. It is informed that the competent authority in the Ministry of Home Affairs after considering the request, has approved the proposal to extend the time line of the scheme for Financial Assistance to families of West Pakistan Refugees (WPRs) settled in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir from 31/03/2024 to 31/03/2025, within the approved outlay of Rs.317.02 crore. It is also informed that the scheme shall not continue beyond the sun set date of 31/03/2025.

3. Government of J&K is accordingly requested to complete the process of identifying all remaining eligible families of the scheme and to furnish authenticated proposals to this Ministry immediately.

Yours faithfully,


(Anil Kumar)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Ph: 2309 4307

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Department of DMRR&R, Government of J&K, Civil Secretariat, Jammu.
2. The Divisional Commissioner (Jammu), Rail Head Complex, Jammu.
3. Director Finance, Department of DMRR&R, Govt. of J&K, Civil Secretariat, Jammu.
4. Deputy Secretary (Finance), Ministry of Home Affairs, North Block, New Delhi.
5. Shri Aayush Bansal, Deputy Director (PFC-II), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, North Block, New Delhi.