

The Central Government seems to have taken advantage of the pandemic time to push through all its nefarious agenda now. The pandemic has generally prevented the organized workers and pensioners from resorting to traditional forms of agitation and struggles to force the Government into accepting their legitimate demands by collective bargaining. The working class which can thus pinch the government through their collective action is now kept at bay. This handicap is being taken advantage of and three instalments of DA/DR are frozen and even if that is returned now after 18 months, the entire arrears will be swallowed by the Government against the law.

The recent is the attack on the film producers. Already there is a censor board under the control of the Government of India, which can effectively control the films to be released. But the Government has enacted a stringent law to control the film production now. Almost all major and important producers have opposed the move as that will curtail their freedom of production. The attempts of Government to control the electronic media by adopting the various tactics are another concern to us. The Defence Ordnance factories are being bartered from the Public Sector to Private despite stout opposition from the organized united workers of that Industry. Despite the past assurances that there will be no privatization, the Government goes ahead to privatise and when the unions unitedly serve strike notice, the Government is issuing an ordinance declaring that all strikes are illegal under Essential Defence Services Ordinance. The ordinance is threatening the workers to imprisonment etc if they go on strike. The major section of peasantry that preferred to agitate peacefully in Delhi for the past four months and more is generally being ignored by the Government and the democratic press! The Government is attacking one section after another. Already the Citizenship laws are hanging like a sword of Damocles over the heads of people. The miseries thrust on the people by demonetization of higher currency notes and introduction of GST taxation method that resulted in accumulation of economic powers at the hands of Union Government against all States will be there as a permanent measure.

There is widespread apprehension that the Reserve Bank of India; the Central Bureau of Investigation, the Judiciary, the Election Commission, the Auditor General, the Press, the Enforcement Directorate etc were already bullied and brought under the control of Government to deny their full independence. The tightening of labour laws, the enactment of agriculture farm bills, the privatization drive of Government and Public Sector institutions including the Defence, Railways etc are creating a feeling of insecurity and fear about the economy of our country and the fate of workers in general.

The situation is worsened by the inept handling of COVID 2nd wave that resulted in fast spread of pandemic coupled with Oxygen, Hospital Beds and Medicine shortage to a level unheard of in our country. The vaccination shortage that scuttles the efforts of universal vaccination to face the onslaught of pandemic is also causing heavy damage to the people. The apprehension is not away that the vaccination shortage is the real reason for elongating the gap period of second vaccination of Covishield from 28 days to 84 days! The vaccination is more effective after 84 days gap may be a propaganda tactics to dilute the anger of the people, we do not know. The role being played by some State Governments are adding fuel to fire through various anti people measures at this helpless time.

The Central Government appears to be not caring the notional opposition from various quarters. The Pensioners cannot keep themselves totally away from all these maladies on the grounds that interfering in these issues may be dubbed as politics. It is not politics to voice our support to all the above struggling sections of people. It is only politics to maintain total silence by pasting our mouths with cellular tapes that will indirectly support all the undemocratic measures initiated by the Central Government. Let us therefore voice our strong protests to all the unpopular measures aimed at curtailing the democratic rights of different sections of citizens. We should understand that we are part of citizens and not toys. ●

K.Ragavendran, Editor

Central Managing Committee of AIPRPA Call for Email Campaign to Prime Minister in June 2021 demanding UNFREEZING of DA/DR

AIPRPA /CHQ / Email Campaign / DR Dated 12.05.2021

LAUNCH AN EMAIL CAMPAIGN TO UNFREEZE DA/DR

To

All CHQ Office Bearers / State General Secretaries / State Office Bearers / District and Divisional Secretaries / District & Divisional Office Bearers /and All Members of AIPRPA

Dear Comrades!

The Central Managing Committee of AIPRPA CHQ that had met on 11.05.2021 through VC has unanimously decided to launch an email campaign to the Honourable Prime Minister to unfreeze the DA/DR from 1.1.2020 with entire arrears. The Email Campaign has to be launched during the month of JUNE 2021. The Emails to Prime Minister should be sent by all members of AIPRPA whether they are office bearers at some level or not. The States / Districts / Divisional Associations shall organize this email campaign by collecting over phone the eMAIL IDs of all members and encourage them to send the email to Prime Minister in June 2021. Copy of the email is to be sent to our CHQ also in the Email ID of CHQ. Both the Email ID of CHQ and the method to send the Email to Honourable Prime Minister of India are provided hereunder:

For sending the Email to the Honourable Prime Minister:

Go to the page PMO Portal: <https://pmopg.gov.in/pmocitizen/Grievancepmo.aspx> and fill up the page with particulars of your name, mobile number etc in the area of “WRITE TO THE PRIME MINISTER”. After filling up the page, select “Public Grievances” under the column “CATEGORY” and paste the entire Email matter given by the CHQ inside the BOX. Then type the character below the box in the place earmarked and SUBMIT.

Copy of the Email may please be sent to CHQ: aiprpachq@gmail.com for our records. (Please remember that this Email to Prime Minister should be sent by each member of AIPRPA – Therefore kindly organize the Programme)

Comradely Yours,

Sd/-

(K.Ragavendran)

General Secretary

TEXT OF EMAIL CAMPAIGN TO HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER

Respected Sir,

We, the Pensioners of Indian Postal Department, complying with the decision of the Central Managing Committee of All India Postal and RMS Pensioners Association, are sending this email as part of the email campaign decided to urge the Government of India to immediately order unfreezing of Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief due from 1.1.2020 to Central Government Employees and Pensioners. Earlier, the Government of India had ordered freezing of DA/DR of 3 instalments from 1.1.2020; 1.7.2020 and 1.1.2021 for 18 months in order to manage the financial requirement to fight the Corona. Even the arrears for the above 18 months were fully denied and ordered to be subsumed while issuing the OM for grant of DA and DR with effect from 1.7.2021.

We wish to point out that in order to fight the effect of COVID-19 spread and the inflation heightened during the past 18 months, the compensation in lieu of uncontrolled inflation was absolutely essential to the community of poor pensioners. The Senior Citizens were put into untold sufferings and hardships during this period of spread of pandemic like all others but economically also squeezed due to denial of their due Dearness Relief. Without the timely grant of DA and DR, we are handicapped highly to manage our ends that were compounded by the spread of COVID-19. It is not out of place to point out that while the action of the Central Government had resulted in attacking our economic interests and survival, the corporate houses were allowed to increase their assets uninterrupted during the time of pandemic without taxing them towards the pandemic heavily.

It is not out of place to point out that the Honourable Supreme Court of India had ordered payment of 6% interest to all the employees and pensioners of the State Government in the case filed by the Andhra Pradesh State Government against the order of the Honourable High Court of Andhra Pradesh to pay 12% interest on the delayed payment of salary and pension due to State Government Employees and Pensioners caused by the unjustified orders issued by the State Government. The Supreme Court also has reiterated that the salaries of the employees is intrinsic to the right to life under Article 21 and to the right to property under Article 300A of the Constitution. Therefore, the Government cannot through any OM defer the salaries and pensions without recourse to law. The Supreme Court's direction ipso facto applies to Central Government also even though earlier the Honourable High Court of Delhi had given out a judgment against the employees and pensioners. The judgment of the Highest Court is the final word for all. It has clearly ruled that the Pension cannot be reduced by denial of Dearness Relief. The Central Government shall respect the spirit of the judgment of the Apex Court and implement it and unfreeze the DA and DR due to Central Government Employees and Pensioners without delay.

Therefore, we demand that not only the freezing of DA and DR due from 1.1.2020 ordered by Central Government earlier is to be lifted but also the earlier order is modified to grant the entire arrears to all Central Government Employees and Pensioners immediately if not added with the 6% of interest to the period of freeze ordered.

Thanking you Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Name:



May Day Communique

All over the world the 'May Day' used to be observed by the working class and other working people on 1st May with fervour and enthusiasm. In fact, the whole month of May is used to be observed by us and the pledge to fight for our rights that are shrinking day by day under neo-liberalism as well as to dedicate for establishing a regime free from human exploitation is undertaken. The current May Day like the May Day of the previous year is being celebrated under the spread of pandemic COVID-19 and therefore is generally being observed virtually in many places and without much fanfare in many places. But the issues are same and the pledge to establish a society free from human exploitation is more valid now than ever before. The events unfurled along with the spread of corona beyond doubt have amply proved that point.

The confiscation of hard-won rights and privileges of working class including that of the basic right to work only for 8 hours, which is the symbol of May Day, is widespread in the world under liberalization. The restrictions imposed due to the pandemic has helped the ruling classes to accentuate the attack on us. Hardly the 8 hours work is being observed by the private employers in many countries including India. In the name of pandemic and work at home the extraction of more number of hours of work over and above 8 hours a day is the general rule. There can be no protests and opposition due to corona restrictions and social distancing. All forms of physical protest either vegetarian and non-vegetarian is not allowed and also not advisable under the spread of life-threatening pandemic. More over the 2nd wave of pandemic in countries like India is more life threatening and faster in

spreading due to many reasons including the lapses committed by the Government.

The first and foremost requirement on this May Day is to save the people from the pandemic. The invention of vaccinations should be used in a planned manner to administer it to all sections of people in order to cause herd immunity and thereby defeat the spread of pandemic. There is no doubt that there are bungling in that vital area and crores of people are left without adequate vaccinations in the country. The lack of uniformity in pricing of the vaccinations and lack of production of sufficient stock of vaccinations to universally administer have helped the pandemic to spread faster and threatening to start 3rd wave of pandemic also as anticipated by some experts. LANCET is a renowned medical journal and it predicts that the deaths may go up to 10 lakhs in India by August 1st, which is really worrisome. It had castigated the Central Government for the failures to be vigilant and arrest the pandemic.

Secondly, we witness the honourable Courts including several High Courts and the Apex Court have come out openly to criticise the Central Government for the failure to supply adequate medical oxygen to states causing widespread shortage and human deaths. We also witness shortage of oxygen beds and even beds to the pandemic affected people in many states. Ironically, the huge donations accumulated in the PM CARES Fund is not at all utilised to create enough oxygen plants to produce medical oxygen as per the necessity. There must have been proper planning to prevent mass assemblies in the name of election in five States and prevention of human assembly for religious functions. The failure and the laxity in these areas have

become to cause to super spread the pandemic in India in many parts. Unfortunately, even in States where elections were not undertaken, the crisis have been allowed to accentuate to threaten the whole country.

Thirdly, the question of medicine shortage. There appears to be huge crowds to purchase medicines as the private hospitals drive the relatives of the patients to manage some medicines including those medicines which were earlier discarded by the W.H.O! The basic need to maintain the medicine supply to

Delhi State GS AIRPA Comrade Deepchand Bereaved!

It is most unfortunate that Sri.Devinder Singh the son of Delhi State GS AIRPA Comrade Deepchand had passed away on 25.03.2021 at his age of 52 due to long illness and cancer. Comrade



Devinder Singh was an employee of Postal Department as a Driver in Delhi MMS. He is survived of his wife, three daughters and a son. The pain of losing a son by any father is cruel. Let the nature give enough strength to Comrade Deepchand, his wife and the family of deceased Comrade Devinder Singh to bear the irreparable loss. CHQ expresses its deep condolences to all the bereaved family members.

ensure the safety of patients also compromised in many places.

The steps needed to prevent black marketing of oxygen and medicines by vested interests by the Government also exposed

the essential items during the pandemic is also another failure of the Government.

The working class, while demanding usual May Day demands, have to necessarily highlight the pandemic related issues also very forcefully as they are life threatening to all and especially the senior citizens.

Notwithstanding the exploitation of workers beyond eight hours a day, the job loss to millions due to repeated lock downs is another major problem. Hundreds of Medium and Small Scale Industries have to be closed down and the job loss and income loss are very serious. Only the employees and workers of some major industries and the Government owned industries and departments have escaped this job loss and income loss during the pandemic time. Even there the compensation towards price rise had been denied to lakhs of employees and pensioners as their Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief was denied for 18 months including the appropriate arrears. The continued silence of the Central Government is confronting the judgment of the Apex Court verdict against the Andhra State Government stand of ordering recovery of salary and pension and prayer to waive the rate of interest ordered by the High Court of Andhra. (Copy of Apex Court order is printed under Box Matters in the current issue). The financial compensation announced by the Central Government towards workers losing jobs, and especially the migrant workers and several crores of rural people is noticed to be far less than the quantum announced by several other Governments of various States!

The pandemic has exposed the limitations of several countries in facing such pandemics and to save the people. The basic need appears to be a strong public medical infrastructure

to establish such a public medical edifice could successfully thwart the pandemic like the Socialist Countries and even the country like United Kingdom has managed to successfully fight the pandemic due to its strong public infrastructure in the medical field. The experience of several small countries like Vietnam, New Zealand worth mentioning here as those Governments have successfully fought against the pandemic and contained it. In India, the mad drive for privatization and weakening of a strong public infrastructure in the field of medical has contributed to the grave failures. The encouragement extended to privatization generally and to the private hospitals especially have resulted in various maladies. The exorbitant charging by the Private Hospitals and the dubious role played by many of them are standing examples as against the transparent and dedicated service rendered by Government owned Hospitals and by Government Doctors and Nurses etc. The writing is clear on the wall: Government and Public Hospitals are to be strengthened by the Government Exchequer and blind encouragement of private hospitals should be ended as well as stringent action taken by the erring private hospitals without any mercy.

The three months old agitation by the biggest section of the society viz., the Peasantry needs to be mentioned by us. The determination and dogged battle conducted by the peasantry for weeks cannot be attributed to political considerations. No opposition party can incite any section for such a long time to agitate. The adamancy of the Central Government that sits in high pedestal of ego in spite of several peasants dying in conditions of poverty and natural conditions should end. The Government if sincere in its fight against pandemic should

Comrade Masthan Rao, Guntur DS AIPRPA passed away!

Comrade Masthan Rao was the District Secretary of Guntur AIPRPA and also the State Treasurer of Andhra State Association of AIPRPA. He was admitted in the Guntur Hospital after affected by the COVID-19 and after an unsuccessful treatment had passed away on 25th April 2021 and followed by his wife in the death on 2nd May, 2021. The demise of both Comrade Masthan Rao and his wife has placed us in a deep state of sorrow. Comrade Masthan Rao's role in P4 and NFPE movement of Andhra as well as in our AIPRPA movement is great. His role along with the State GS in organizing the 2nd AIC of AIPRPA at Vijayawada was really appreciated by one and all. The untimely demise of Comrade Masthan Rao especially in the heels of the sudden demise of the State GS has caused a great void in the movement of AIPRPA in Andhra. As a warrior of pensioners movement who organised all calls of the higher bodies with effectiveness is no more! CHQ dips its banner and flag in memory and honour of this warrior comrade Masthan Rao and also his wife. Comrade Masthan Rao and his wife amar rahe!



agree to withdraw the contentious farm bills and heavens are not going to fall on its head if proper methods of discussions are initiated from now on wards with the cross sections to frame the bills that give confidence to this biggest working people in rural areas of the vast country. The support rendered by the workers to the peasants' struggle is welcome and the working class in this May Day must think deeply to extend more steps to establish total support to peasantry.

We, the Pensioners should not forget that we are part and parcel of the working class. We should remember that this working class only had succeeded in fighting the NPS and able to record successes in winning the DCRG and Family Pension to NPS Sections. We, the Pensioners cannot forget that it is these Central TUS that are fighting steadfastly demanding to scrap the NPS. Without joining with the workers and working class, we cannot scrap the NPS. Similarly, the demand of minimum pension and universal pension cannot be won without the solidarity of the working people.

Divorced from the trade unions and trade union centres, the pensioners movement will be grouping in darkness even with correct ideological perspective as far as the demands are concerned.

The need of the hour in this May Day is to forge a long-lasting unity with the trade unions of our own industry and with the entire working class and fight for all issues unitedly. The need of the hour is to bring together all class-conscious pensioners organizations in the country under a united banner and continue to struggle along with the working class. The need of the hour is to unite with the international pensioners and retirees under the banner of Trade Union International (Pensioners and Retirees) established by WFTU and unify the pensioners of all countries in the battle for our rights. Unless we the Pensioners understand this important logic, we cannot succeed in our endeavour to protect our rights of pension and social security when the Government embarks on the journey to confiscate them under the pressure from international corporate houses. ●

K.B.Krishna Rao

Secretary Karnataka
P&T Pensioners Association

14 नई दिल्ली

5th September

(Committee Room A

(कनका एन ए) विज्ञान भवन एनेक्सी



Efficacy of SCOVA

(Seminar Speech - Continuation of last issue)

Let me now dwell on how effective the mechanism is in producing the desired or intended result. Whether the purposes of establishing a mechanism like that of SCOVA have since been fully accomplished. No doubt, it has definitely provided a forum for pensioners who, otherwise would have been rendered voice less. I have to say without any hesitation that the voice of pensioners is heard in the meetings as has been experienced by me in the meetings that I have attended. Associations do participate in the discussions and are given an opportunity to speak on the agenda items.

But as a forum, SCOVA has no statutory authority. The decisions taken in the meetings even after a good deal of discussion are not binding on any Department and are not enforceable. It is my experience that in one of the meetings, even after the representative of a Department stated that he agrees in principle

to the demand raised by the association; the concerned department took years to comply with the demand. It is, therefore, imperative that SCOVA must be accorded a status like that of JCM and there should be a provision for arbitration in the event of disagreement over a particular issue pursued in SCOVA.

Meetings: periodicity and the agenda

In the initial stages of SCOVA, meetings were being held somewhat at close intervals, but without an agenda. Minutes of the Meeting and action taken reports were not circulated. But now meetings are being held once or twice in year or sometimes only once in a year. However, an agenda with the items suggested by the members of SCOVA is taken up for discussion. Minutes and action taken report are being circulated. Minutes are circulated amongst the member associations before being uploaded on the website. It is important to note that all items/issues suggested by the

associations are not included and only some items/issues selected by DoPPW are taken up for discussion in the meetings. It is understood that there is a committee in DOPPW which decides on the items/issues which are to be included in the agenda, of course, selected from the items suggested by the associations.

The meetings are held for about 3 hours, usually between 11.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. and the time allotted is rather inadequate considering the number of the agenda items and the importance of the subject. Action taken report on the items of the previous meetings is presented first and fresh items of the day's agenda are taken up later. Due to paucity of time, on some occasions, a detailed discussion on the fresh items, will not be possible and will have to be hurried through.

Suggestion : To facilitate inclusion of all the issues notified by the pensioners associations in

the agenda and to allow meaningful , useful and result oriented discussions without any time

constraints, the meetings must be held once in every 3 months, preferably on pre-determined dates, however, subject to change owing to exigencies. The duration of the meeting must be 6 hours in 2 sessions.

Let me now speak on the objectives:

Objective number 1: is to provide a feedback on programme implementation of process/programmes of the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare:

The feedback, of course, must come from the pensioners associations also in additions to that furnished by the official representatives of the Ministries/Departments. A feedback on programme implementation of DOPPW can be given only by such of the

Pensioners' Associations who are very familiar with the policies enunciated by the government on pension matters and pensioners' welfare.

In the meetings that I have attended, only a few associations were able to provide feedback on implementation of the recommendations of 6th & 7th CPCs and various other orders issued subsequently. More than 6 OMs were issued in connection with implementation of the recommendations of 6th CPC and 4 on 7th CPC. Feedback from the stake holders definitely plays an important role in addressing the inadequacies or deficiencies in a system. And more importantly, the powers that be must lend an ear to the submissions made by the stake holders. It is my experience that in the meetings, pensioners associations are allowed to speak and their submissions are also listened to.

(b) The 2nd objective: to discuss and critically examine the policy initiatives.

The 4th CPC has suggested that Government must examine broad-basing this objective. But as of now, the Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances and Pensions and Dept. of pension, the nodal department, decide on pension policy in consultation with MoF, DoE. In SCOVA meetings, usually matters concerning implementation of orders already issued and fresh demands regarding pensionery benefits or medical facilities are discussed. It is, therefore, advisable that DoP&PW brings before the forum of SCOVA its pension policy initiatives so that they receive the attention of the pensioners and are subjected to a critical examination by all concerned as enjoined in the objectives of SCOVA.

My suggestion that representatives of NC JCM/COG & NCCPA must be made permanent invitees to the meeting and Pensioners Associations with large membership base

and have established their credibility over the years, the Coordination Committees of Central Government Pensioner' Associations to which many Pensioners Associations are affiliated to must be nominated to SCOVA, assumes importance and such a measure is absolutely essential for achieving this important objective.

The 3rd objective: To mobilize voluntary efforts to supplement the Government action.

The 4th CPC observed that in their view, Pensioners represent manpower, rich in experience and talent, which should be properly used in the nation-building activities.

The Hon'ble Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh, in many of the SCOVA meetings, praising the services of Pensioners and Pensioners Associations has called upon pensioners to involve themselves in social work telling them that they have only retired from service but are not tired. Some pensioners and associations have volunteered to extend their service under the initiative from the Pension Department titled "SANKALP" which provides a platform for pensioners to access opportunities to them for useful intervention in the society.

Swatch Bharath Abhiyan or Clean India Mission

In Karnataka, CCCGPA, Karnataka & KP&TPA involved themselves in The 'Swatch Bharath Abhiyan' or Clean India Mission is a country-wide campaign initiated by the Government of India, a massive movement that seeks to create a clean India. Pensioners indulged themselves in sweeping of roads, clearing clogged drains and removing hand bills pasted on electric poles and trees. With a view to ensure involvement of general public and students in "Swachhta Jan Andolan", a programme was arranged which included, distribution of prizes to students who have won in Essay Competition, Cleaning and

Tree Plantation in and around school campus, Procession by students and pensioners around school premises to bring awareness of Swachh Bharat Mission by holding placards, etc.

Digital Life Certificate

This is yet another voluntary effort by the associations to supplement the Government action. Many Pensioners' Associations in the country assisted pensioners, specially the aged and the infirm in submission of their digital life certificates through Jevan Pramaan Portal from the comforts of their homes. Special DLC camps were held in cities. Even during this present pandemic covid -19 situation in the country, some associations continued with their service to pensioners and visited the residences of old pensioners who needed help in submission of DLC.

The 4th objective: To promote constructive discussions

Here I should say that discussions are allowed in the meetings. Whenever a representative of the associations wishes to make any submission on the agenda items, he is allowed to speak and listened to also. The objective is to promote discussion. Hence it is necessary that the representatives are encouraged to actively participate in the discussion.

CONCLUSION ON SCOVA

In conclusion of my submissions on SCOVA, I would like to emphasise that

1. SCOVA should be broad based with nominations made to it from the associations well-established and with large membership base & Coordination Committees of Central Govt Pensioners' Associations. Apart from the pensioners' representatives, nominees of JCM/ COC and the NCCPA must be permanent invitees to the meetings.

Apex Court Judgment to refund the frozen DA/DR

The Honourable Supreme Court of India had heard a civil appeal petition and ruled on 8th February 2021 (Civil Appeal No.399 of 2021 arising out of SLP Number 12553 of 2020) and ordered the Andhra Pradesh State Government to pay 6% per annum of interest on account of deferred salaries and pensions within a period of 30 days. Earlier, the Honourable High Court of Andhra had given its verdict on a writ petition filed before it on the action of the State Government to withheld different percentage of salaries and pension to its employees and pensioners issued on 31st March 2020 and of course modified by the State Government to exempt the employees of certain categories of some departments and also subsequently the pensioners in the month of April 2020. However, the High Court of Andhra had ruled on 11th August, 2020 while admitting the PIL that the Pension is payable to the retired employees for the past services rendered by them to the State and that the Pension can only be withheld or deferred under specific circumstances such as if the pensioner is found guilty of grave misconduct or negligence during employment in a department or judicial proceeding. Similarly, it ruled that the salaries of the employees is the intrinsic to the right to life under Article 21 and to the right to property under Article 300A of the

Constitution. Therefore, the Government cannot through any OM could defer the salaries and pensions without recourse to law. On this ground the High Court of Andhra had ordered for payment of 12% of interest on the deferred pension and salary to pensioners and employees.

The Supreme Court on appeal from the Andhra State Government upheld the Andhra High Court stand with a slight modification that the rate of interest payable shall be 6% instead of 12%. The plea of the State Government that even though it had implemented the ruling of the Court and paid the salary and pension to all employees and pensioners, the rate of interest may be waived. But the Honourable Supreme Court refused that plea and only modified the rate of interest to 6%. The Central Government accepting the spirit of the judgment of the Supreme Court shall come forward to start paying the entire DA/DR due to employees and pensioners including the arrears as well as 6% interest.

The above judgments are welcome by us as they uphold the right to pension beyond any shadow of doubt and that they prove the stand of the Central Government in ordering the DA/DR freeze for 18 months totally wrong. We demand the Central Government to withdraw the OMs forthwith and order payment of entire DA/DR from 1.1.2020.

2. There must be well defined norms for nominating pensioners Associations instead of selection at random.
3. SCOVA must be accorded a status like that of JCM and there should be a provision for arbitration in the event of disagreement

- over a particular issue pursued in SCOVA.
4. Meetings must be held once in every three months and at least for 6 hours in two sessions.

(To be continued and concluded in the next month issue – Editor)

CHQ Writes to Government

- **Member (P) Postal Services Board New Delhi 110001**
- **No. AIPRPA / CHQ / CMC / Chhattisgarh Dated 12.05.2021**
- **Sub: Request for instructing the entire level of Circle Administration of Chhattisgarh Circle to endorse all OMs issued by DoP in time – regarding.**

The Central Managing Committee of our All India Postal & RMS Pensioners Association CHQ which met on 11.05.2021 noted with concern that there appears to be heavy delay in implementation of certain orders of Postal Directorate like “Inclusion of induction training period for TBOP/BCR; grant of upgraded scales of pay to Postman” etc in Chhattisgarh Postal Circle.

The reason attributed for this condition is that the authorities at various levels of Chhattisgarh Circle maintain that they were not in receipt of DoP orders in this regard. They refuse to take the copy of order supplied by our State or District Association stating that they should receive the copy of the order directly from above through proper channels.

This Association is very sorry to note that in this age of electronics, a Postal Circle is still living in old age and taking shelter against non-implementation in the name of non-receipt of OMs directly from above. We hope that necessary action to instruct the authorities

in that circle will be initiated by the Postal Directorate to alleviate the problems faced by our Pensioners and Family Pensioners.

- **Secretary Department of Health & Family Welfare**
- **No. AIPRPA / CHQ / CMC / CGHS - Dated 12.05.2021**
- **Sub: Request to include the CGHS Wellness Centres as COVID-19 Vaccination Centres – reg.**

The Central Managing Committee of All India Postal & RMS Pensioners Association in its video conference session on 11.05.2021 reviewed the vaccination drive of Covaxin and Covishield in the country and resolved to request the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to favourably consider inclusion of Wellness Centres of CGHS also as Vaccination Centres to contain COVID-19. At present the Pensioners of Central Government are forced to get the vaccine administered along with the crowds in earmarked vaccination centres, which many times involve violation of social distancing and other norms.

This Association of Senior Citizens will be highly thankful if the CGHS Wellness Centres all over the country are also named as vaccination centres for preventing COVID-19 and a relief is thus provided for the Pensioners especially in addition to Central Government Employees aged 18+. The measure will ease the tension amongst the Pensioners to a larger extent.



Supreme Court orders Stay for payment of Notional Increment

The Dharwar Circuit Bench of High Court of Karnataka earlier in its order dated 22.10.2020 in WP Numer 146967 / 2020 (S-CAT) had upheld the verdict of CAT Bangalore and ordered payment of notional increment in a 30th June retiree from the Central Government. However, on appeal by the Railway Department in the Apex Court, the Supreme Court has stayed the judgment of High Court of Karnataka on 5.4.2021. Though the Stay order do not restrain any other court in giving out judgment in favour of retired employees, the Supreme Court obstacle has to be now overcome so that the case for notional increment for retirement purpose by all 30th June retirees.

CMC Meeting of AIPRPA CHQ



On 11.05.2021 at 3.00 P.M the virtual meeting of CMC of AIPRPA CHQ was held under the presidentship of CHQ Vice President Comrade B.M.Sunda. A written note was already circulated to all the CMC Members by the General Secretary for facilitating a discussion on all items of agenda notified.

After the homage to all departed CHQ leaders including Comrades M.Krishnan (Executive Committee Member & former SG NFPE and Confederation); T.Narasimhan (Vice President AIPRPA and President of AITUC Telangana); Y.Nagabhushanam (AP State GS AIPRPA); T.P.Mishra (Founder State GS of U.P and President of the State Association); N.K.Vashist (President of Delhi State Association); U.S.Sharma (leader of AIPRPA and former CS P3 Jharkhand); Masthan Rao (Treasurer AP State AIPRPA); Mehaboob Khan (Nellore District Secretary AIPRPA) and many members of AIPRPA and other organizations, the CMC started deliberations on other items of agenda.

After the General Secretary initiating discussion based on the written report and all State General Secretaries and CMC Members deliberated on it, the following decisions have been taken unanimously:

1) The AIC as well as State Conferences and District / Divisional Conferences of AIPRPA shall be postponed until normalcy and end of Corona pandemic.

2) All CMC Members shall send emails to CHQ on issues pending at their state level like Induction training inclusion for TBOP/

BCR; Upgraded

pay from

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to Postman/

Mailguard including TBOP/

BCR cadres; CHGS related problems etc., for taking appropriate action by the CHQ.

3) On DA/DR unfreezing from 1.7.2021, the CHQ shall organize a email campaign in the month of June 2021 to the Honourable Prime Minister requesting him to cause to end the freeze. The CHQ also is directed to inform the JCM Staff Side and NCCPA leadership to explore the possibility of organizing a campaign on this issue in the month of June in the form of sending emails etc to the Government. The CHQ will request the NCCPA to explore the possibility of moving the court in the background of stand of the Supreme Court in the case involving the Andhra State Government on the issue of freezing of salary and DA/DP.

4) A resolution was adopted urging the Central Government to ensure quick vaccination to all population at free of cost to protect from COVID-19. It was also decided to request the Government to include the CGHS Wellness Centres as vaccination centres.

5) A letter will be written by CHQ on the issue of non-circulation of several OMs in the Chhattisgarh State by the administration resulting in denial of implementation of several orders issued by the Directorate. ●

Family Pension to parents.

As per the recommendation of the 5th CPC, admissibility of family pension to parents and widowed/divorced daughter has been given effect from 01-01-1998 vide OM No. 45/51/97-P&PW (E) dt. 05-03-1998 of Dept. of P&PW. It has been clarified that Family Pension will be admissible to parents subject to the following conditions.

- (a) Parents wholly dependent on the Government Servants when he/she was alive.
- (b) The Government Servant has not left behind a widow/widower, eligible son or daughter or a widowed/divorced daughter who have a prior claim to family pension in the order indicated.

- (c) All other prescribed conditions are fulfilled.

For the condition (b), it has been clarified in OM No. 1/2/07-P&PW (E) dated 02-09-2011 that where a deceased Government servant is survived by a widow/widower or a child and the position changes subsequently because of death or remarriage of the spouse and/or death or ineligibility of child/children, including a disabled child, the dependent parents become eligible for family pension.

However in terms of OM No. 38/37/08-P&PW(A) dt. 02-9-2008, a childless widow, (of a deceased Government employee) subject to dependency criteria, is entitled to the family pension even after her re-marriage and in such an event, the parents of the deceased employee become entitled to the family pension only after the childless widow dies or when her independent income from all other sources becomes equal to or higher than the prescribed for dependency criterion under the rules



**KNOW
PENSION
RULES**

Comrade Mehaboob Khan the Nellore DS of AIPRPA Passes Away!



Comrade Mehaboob Khan a senior comrade and also the District Secretary of Nellore AIPRPA had breathed his last on 3rd May, 2021 after an unsuccessful bid to defeat COVID-19. He was in house quarantine for about a week and then hospitalized in the hospital at Nellore but succumbed to the pandemic and passed away.

Comrade Mehaboob Khan was a sincere and dedicated comrade and leader of AIPRPA movement. He used to organize all calls of the CHQ in Nellore with sincerity and used to take part in strengthening the pensioners movement in Andhra State at the leadership of Andhra State Association. It is indeed an irreparable loss to us.

His parting away and leaving this mortal world is a huge blow to us. CHQ AIPRPA dips its flag and banner in fond memory of this senior leader comrade Mehaboob Khan. Comrade Mehaboob Khan Amar Rahe!

For the purpose of income criteria, income of both the parents to be taken together. The family pension wherever admissible to parents, mother will receive the family pension first and after her death the father will receive the family pension. Family pension to parents is admissible at the ordinary rates only.

Two family pensions to spouse.

Two family pensions are allowed for service rendered under two different sets of rules. Vide OM No. 1/33/2012-P&PW(E) dt. 16-01-2013, the Government has decided to allow two family pensions where the pensioner drew, is drawing or may draw two pensions for military and/or civil employments. Financial benefits in past cases will accrue with effect from 24-09-2012

Two family pensions to child/children

According to sub rule 11 under Rule 54 of CCS (Pension) rules 1972, both wife and husband are government servants and are

governed by provisions of this rule, one of them dies while in service or after retirement, the family pension in respect of the deceased shall become payable to the surviving husband or wife and in the event of the death of the husband or wife, the surviving child or children shall be eligible for two family pensions in respect of the deceased parents subject to fulfillment of other conditions.

OM No. 1/11/2011-P&PW(E) dt. 30-11-2011 of Dept. of P&PW clarified the income/dependency criterion for grant of two-family pensions under this rule as hereunder. "It is clarified that family pension admissible to a beneficiary in respect of one deceased employee/pensioner is not to be counted as income for the purpose of determination of eligibility for another deceased employee/pensioner. However, any income/earning of the beneficiary under consideration will be counted towards income for deciding eligibility for family pension".

Family pension to children from the void or voidable marriage

It has been clarified in OM No. 1/16/96, P&PW (E) dated 02-12-1996 that pensionary benefits will be granted to children of a deceased Government servant/pensioner from the void or voidable marriage when their turn comes in accordance with Rule 54 (8) of CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 and the children will have no claim whatsoever to receive family pension as long as the legally wedded wife is the recipient of the same.

In OM No. 1/16/1996-P&PW (E) (Vol. II) dt. 27-11-2012, it has been decided that in supersession of OM dated 02-12-1996, the share of children from illegally wedded wife in the family pension shall be payable to them in the manner given under sub-rule 7 (c) of CCS (Pension) Rules 1972, along with the legally wedded wife. It has also been decided that in past cases no recovery from the previous beneficiary should be made.

No pensionary benefit is admissible to a wife whose marriage with the Government servant/pensioner would be voidable or held void under the provisions of Hindu Marriage Act.

Family Pension to blind son/daughter.

It has been clarified in Rule 75 (6) of Railway Service (Pension) Rules, 1993 that blindness is a physical disability and sanction of family pension to such a blind son/daughter will be subject to fulfillment of all other conditions.

Family Pension to Judicially separated spouse

Where a female Government servant or male Government servant dies leaving behind a judicially separated husband or widow and

Comrade U.S.Sharma former CS P3 Jharkhand Amar Rahe!



It is really shocking to hear that the former Circle Secretary of P3 Jharkhand and the present leader of AIPRPA in Jharkhand as well as the President

Dhanbad District AIPRPA has breathed his last on 5th May, 2021 after admitted in the PMCH Hospital Dhanbad for treatment with respiratory problem followed by COVID-19. We know him as a sincere and open-hearted comrade who did not hesitate to voice his differences with us on issues that he had a different notion. His association with our AIPRPA movement had strengthened us especially in Dhanbad and Jharkhand State. In a series of huge losses to COVID-19, we have the sorrowful demise of senior comrade U.S.Sharma also. It is really an irreparable loss to our pensioners movement. CHQ AIPRPA dips its banner and flag in fond memory of departed leader comrade U.S.Sharma! Comrade Sharma Amar Rahe!

no child or children, the family pension in respect of the deceased shall be payable to the person surviving if such person surviving was not held guilty of committing adultery. Judicially separated spouse with children will get family pension after the children cease to be eligible. I am here pointing out the observation of the five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice of India in a particular case of adultery. "Adultery does not even qualify as a criminal offence and is, at the most, a civil wrong." ●

Refreshing our Knowledge

Definition of "family" for CGHS

Under CGHS the "Family" means and includes Husband or wife, as the case may be, and other dependant family members. Dependant Family Members include: parents (female employee can have either her parents or her parents-in-law as dependents), sisters, widowed sisters, widowed daughters, minor brothers and minor sister, children and step-children wholly dependent upon the Government Servant and are normally residing with the Government Servant (son upto the age of 25 or till his marriage whichever is earlier and daughter till she gets married).

Also, now 'dependent' includes, dependent divorced / separated daughters (including their dependant minor children) and step-mother. The term 'dependent' means that income from all sources including pension and pension equivalent of DCRG benefit is less than Rs. 9000 +DA per month. This clause is to be fulfilled for all 'dependent' family members. However, there is no such clause as dependency in respect of spouse.

(OM - <https://cghs.gov.in/showfile.php?lid=4482>)

Age limit for Son and Daughter

Is there any age limit for sons/daughters as dependant in CGHS Card?

Son is eligible till he starts earning or attains the age of 25 years or gets married whichever is earlier. However, in case the son is suffering from any permanent disability of DGC/CGHS-FAQ 8 | Page any kind (physical or mental) he is eligible for CGHS benefits even after 25yrs, provided the disability occurred before the age of 25 years. A daughter

is eligible till she starts earning, or gets married; whichever is earlier (irrespective of age).

Are the family members of Central Government Servant not residing with him eligible for CGHS facilities?

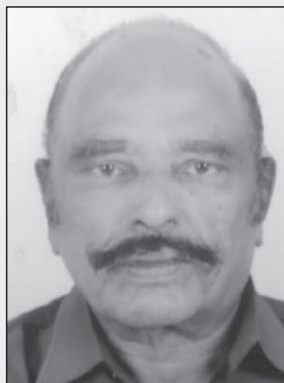
Family members who are wholly dependent upon the Central Government employee are normally expected to reside with the primary card holder. However, during a visit to another CGHS covered city they are eligible for CGHS facilities on the basis of individual Plastic Card issued to the dependent family member.

What is the grace period for getting CGHS card for availing treatment facility/ reimbursement for indoor treatment by pensioners immediately after retirement?

Pensioners are permitted a period of three months from the date of superannuation to obtain a CGHS pensioner Card for consideration of reimbursement for the treatment taken during grace period, subject to the condition that Application complete with all documents and requisite CGHS subscription is submitted to the office of Additional Director during the fourth month after retirement for issue of CGHS pensioner card. In case, CGHS pensioner card is not made in the 4th month after retirement, no reimbursement for the expenditure incurred for treatment during the period prior

Comrade A.R.Gopalan Red Salutes!

Comrade A.R.Gopalan the President of AIPRPA Krishnagiri (TN) was a great versatile personality! Earlier he was in P3 NFPE and later functioned as an office bearer of LSG Supervisors Association. With his able coaching and guidelines so many GDS have become Gr.D, MTS, Postman, PA, Acctt, JAO, AAO and even as Gr.B in the Department of Post. He had earned the



fame as an expert Defence Assistant. He was also functioned as PLI DO. He was Correspondent and Counsellor in ARGV Matric school. He was always an inspiring Union Activist. His role in the growth of Pensioners Movement is legendry. His untimely death is an irreparable loss to the postal fraternity. Red Salutes Comrade A.R.Gopalan!

to making CGHS card, including grace period.

Are step-children allowed CGHS facilities?

Yes, if they are dependent on card holder and other conditions being fulfilled as in case of dependant sons and daughters.

What is the procedure to register with the CGHS for Pensioners?

One can get a CGHS card made from the office of Additional Director of the City. Forms can be downloaded from CGHS Website. They are also available in the office of Additional Director of city (Additional Director Headquarter in case of Delhi)

Documents required: 1. Application in prescribed format 2. Proof of residence 3. Proof of stay of dependents 4. Proof of age of son 5. Disability certificate, if any in case of sons aged 25 & above, who would otherwise cease to be a beneficiary. 6. Individual passport size photos of eligible family members 7.

Surrender Certificate of CGHS Card while in service (only in those cases where CGHS Card was issued while in service) 8. Attested copies of PPO & Last Pay Certificate. 9. Print out of receipt for online payment of required amount towards CGHS contribution for the respective Additional Director CGHS of the city made in the Government website "Bharatkosh". (Before making any payment please read carefully the procedure to remit online in Bharatkosh website)

In case PPO is not ready for any reason, there is option to get a provisional card on the basis of Last Pay Certificate. The data uploaded in the data base and a print out is issued on the same day for immediate use. Plastic cards are sent to the Wellness Centres and the beneficiaries collect the cards from there. The plastic card numbers are displayed on the notice board of the Wellness Centre for the information of the beneficiaries. SMS is sent to the mobile number of the beneficiaries reminding them to collect their plastic cards.

T.subramanian,

President AIPRPA - Coimbatore.



STRUGGLE OF A WIDOWED DAUGHTER TO GET FAMILY PENSION

Smt. Radha became a widow in a very young age. She was just 26 at the time of her husband's death. Her son was just 2 years old. Since her husband was working in a small private firm, there was no compensation, no compassionate appointment, nothing. Fortunately, her husband left behind a small house to live in. Her father was a retired Sub Postmaster who had settled in his native village after retirement. He alongwith his wife moved to Coimbatore to take care of his widowed daughter and her son. From then onwards till their death both of them lived alongwith their daughter.

Since she was not much educated, she could not get proper employment either. Moreover, her mother was very sick and she had to take

care of her parents and her child. She had no other go but to stay home to take care of all the three. She never thought of remarriage. Of course, we know well that a remarriage of a widow with a child is very difficult in our country even in this 21st century.

On our initiative, the Postal Pensioner, represented to the SSPOs, Coimbatore on 5.6.2014 for inclusion of the name of his widowed daughter in the PPO. The divisional office took up the matter with GM, PAF, Chennai and he got an acknowledgement dated 23.7.2014 stating that his request for inclusion of the name of widowed daughter has been kept on record and regrant of pension will be decided as and when the occasion arises. In this matter it can be seen that the department

(The write up clearly shows that how a District / Divisional Association of AIPRPA has to function in taking up the individual cases of Pensioners and Family Pensioners. The write up also shows as to how the struggle for justice is long and has to be waged with perseverance. CHQ wishes every other District / Divisional Association shall emulate the practice of Coimbatore – Editor)

has acted swiftly. That much that good.

Unfortunately, the pensioner died on 31.7.2014 at the age of 90 years. By then his wife had already died and there was no other claimant for family pension. As such Smt. Radha applied for regrant of family pension on 28.8.2014 in form 14 enclosing all relevant documents. As no action was initiated even after two reminders, she made an RTI query on 18.2.2015 as to the nature of action taken on her application. The reply received was very vague. They just said that enquiries were made as per departmental rules. But the result of the enquiries was not intimated. We took up the matter in the divisional as well as regional Adalat. Finally, a letter was received on 25.6.2015 asking her to produce some 22 documents, many of them irrelevant. Due to want of space I am not furnishing the lists of documents here.

The first hurdle for us was to get the legal heir certificates of both her father and mother. When we approached the VAO, he wanted the death certificate of the father of the postal pensioner. He himself died at the age of 90. Nobody even knew when and where his father died. There was no question of any death certificate. Finally, we had to approach a broker and after paying a hefty bribe the legal heir ship certificates were obtained. No questions asked!

The next task was to get income certificate. The Tahsildar asked that since she had no income from any sources how can he issue income certificate. We requested him to issue a "No Income" certificate. He refused. Fortunately, one of the VAOs in the jurisdiction of the Tahsildar, was my family friend. Incidentally she was a postwoman before being appointed as VAO. With her help we obtained a "No Income", "No employment" and "Non-Remarriage" certificate from the

Tahsildar. Without her help, it could not have been possible. The good part of it is that we did not pay any bribe this time.

By the time we obtained all these certificates, it was already January 2017. The Assistant Superintendent of Post Offices, to whom the pension papers were forwarded for verification was a very helpful person. She verified and attested all the documents and forwarded to the SSPOs with her recommendation without any delay. It is heartening to note that there are such very good and honest officers in our department who really wants to help the hapless people. Finally, we got a letter from divisional office dated 26.12.2017 which stated that "The claimant has a major son. Hence the question of dependency of the claimant does not arise" and also asked for the salary certificate of her son. Of course, her son was employed. He was employed in a private firm. His job was not secure. In the globalised and liberalised scenario, he could be fired any time. Moreover, he had to take care of his family. (By this time, he was married and had a son). We challenged this. We pointed out that as per Rule 54 of Revised Pension Rules 1972, "the dependency criteria for the purpose of family pension shall be minimum family pension with dearness relief thereon". This is further clarified vide OM. No. 1/13/09-P&PW (E) dated 11.9.2013 of Pension Ministry. In para 4 of the said OM it is stated that "It is clarified that family pension is payable to the children as they are considered to be dependent on Government Servant/Pensioner or his/ her spouse. A child who is not earning equal to or more than the sum of minimum family pension and dearness relief thereon is considered to be dependent on his/her parents". This was again reiterated by the Pension Ministry vide OM No. 1/13/09-P&PW (E) dated 19.7.2017. Nowhere it is stated that the income of the son or daughter of the widowed daughter is to be

taken into account.

Again, she got a letter dated 24.10.2018 from Divisional office asking her to submit the following documents.

1. Certificate from Tahsildar regarding movable/ immovable properties held by the claimant.
2. Date of birth proof of the claimant preferably copy of school records/birth certificate.
3. Marital status of Smt. Rajammal, the elder daughter of the pensioner.

Actually, we had provided everything. This was only delaying tactics on the part of the administration. The question of property does not at all arise. The income of the claimant is the only criteria. For date of birth, Aadhar, Election ID card etc has been provided. Since she was not a matriculate there was no school certificate. Even then we tried to obtain some records from the school she last studied. But since it was very long ago, the school had no records. (She might have left the school in the year 1975 or so). As for the marital status of Smt. Rajamma, we had already provided an affidavit from her which was duly verified by the ASPOs. But since we did not want to prolong further, we also submitted a self-affidavit obtained from Smt. Rajamma about her marital status. We also pointed out that as per OM No. 45/51/97 dt 21.7.1999 of Pension Ministry, "In case they are self-employed or are in receipt of income from sources other than employment, Income Certificate furnished by the concerned beneficiaries themselves may be accepted for the purpose". In our case the claimant had no income whatsoever from any sources. She was neither employed nor self-employed, nor had she any income from any other sources. Hence, we provided a self-declaration. Not satisfied with our explanations, they asked us to provide an affidavit attested by Notary Public for date of birth. This also we provided.

And finally, the family pension was sanctioned on 1.7.2019 five long years after her first application. We were really overjoyed.

Our continuous efforts and perseverance have finally fructified. The pension was sanctioned from 1.8.2014 and she got arrears of pension of Rs.5,18,926/- (Rs. Five lakhs eighteen thousand nine hundred and twenty-six only).

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She voluntarily donated a sum of Rs.25000/- (Twenty-five thousand) to our district association.

We had been continuously taking up the case in divisional and regional Adalat. We made her to represent to the Regional PMG, CPMG, General Manager, Postal and Finance continuously.

We also made many RTI applications to know about the status of the case. Here I have to mention with gratitude the assistance provided by Com. R.Subramanian, President AIPRPA, Erode and member of our legal cell. He not only provided guidance and advise at every stage but also provided copies of important OMs issued by the Pension Ministry on the subject. Our Asst State Secretary, Com. S. Karunanidhi, vigorously followed it up at the office of GM, PAF, Chennai whenever he visited Chennai, I used to remind him and he was a frequent visitor to Chennai in those days.

The story does not end here. She was only

sanctioned the minimum family pension of Rs.3500/- from 1.8.2014. As per the scale of pay and the last pay drawn by the pensioner the amount sanctioned was correct. But she was eligible for higher pension from 1.1.2016 as per OM No. 38/37/2016-P&PW (A) dated 12.5.2017 on implementation of 7th CPC recommendations. Since there was no mention in the PPO as to the pension to be paid from 1.1.2016, she was paid only Rs.9000/-, the minimum pension.

As per the LPD and scale of pay from which the pensioner retired, she was eligible for a family pension of Rs. 10770/- w.e.f 1.1.2016. Again, we made her represent her to the GM PAF, Chennai on 10.10.2019. After one or two reminders we registered a grievance in the Pension Ministry Portal on 7.12.2020. Finally, a revised Memo as per 7th CPC was issued on 14.12.2020 enhancing her basic pension to Rs. 10770/- w e f 1.1.2016. The arrears from 1.1.2016 was also paid to her. So ends the story. ●



AIPRPA FOUNDATION DAY 19.07.2021

- AIPRPA CHQ was founded on 19th July 2014 at Vellore AIC.
- Celebrate the Foundation Day in a befitting manner.
- We are completing 7 years and entering into the 8th year.
- If COVID-19 is still a threat, hold virtual meet to celebrate.
- Keep the Evening of 19.07.2021 free to attend CHQ Virtual Celebration on Zoom at 4.00 P.M.
- AIPRPA is the only pan-Indian Postal & RMS Pensioners Association with direction to unify all Pensioners. Now grown in almost all States and spreading to all Districts with a membership of more than 50,000.

Government Orders

- **MOF Central Board of Direct Taxes**
- **OM No.F.No.225/49/2021-ITA-II Dated**

Subject: Extension of time limits of certain compliances to provide relief to taxpayers in view of the severe pandemic

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes, in exercise of its power under section 119 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Act') provides relaxation in respect of the following compliances:
- The Statement of Financial Transactions (SFT) for the Financial Year 2020- 21, required to be furnished on or before 31st May 2021 under Rule 114E of the Income-tax Rules, 1962 (hereinafter referred to as "the Rules") and various notifications issued thereunder, may be furnished on or before 30th June 2021;
- The Statement of Reportable Account for the calendar year 2020, required to be furnished on or before 31st May 2021 under Rule 114G of the Rules, may be furnished on or before 30th June 2021;
- The Statement of Deduction of Tax for the last quarter of the Financial Year 2020-21, required to be furnished on or before 31st May 2021 under Rule 31A of the Rules, may be furnished on or before 30th June 2021;
- The Certificate of Tax Deducted at Source in Form No 16, required to be furnished to the employee by 15th June 2021 under Rule 31 of the Rules, may be furnished on or before 15th July 2021;
- The TDS/TCS Book Adjustment Statement in Form No 24G for the month of May 2021, required to be furnished on or before 15th June 2021 under Rule 30 and Rule 37CA of the Rules, may be furnished on or before 30th June 2021;
- The Statement of Deduction of Tax from contributions paid by the trustees of an approved superannuation fund for the Financial Year 2020-21, required to be sent on or before 31st May 2021 under Rule 33 of the Rules, may be sent on or before 30th June 2021;
- The Statement of Income paid or credited by an investment fund to its unit holder in Form No 64D for the Previous Year 2020-21, required to be furnished on or before 15th June 2021 under Rule 12CB of the Rules, may be furnished on or before 30th June 2021;
- The Statement of Income paid or credited by an investment fund to its unit holder in Form No 64C for the Previous Year 2020-21, required to be furnished on or before 30th June 2021 under Rule 12CB of the Rules, may be furnished on or before 15* July 2021;
- The due date of furnishing of Return of Income for the Assessment Year 2021-22, which is 31st July 2021 under sub-section (1) of section 139 of the Act, is extended to 30th

September 2021;

- The due date of furnishing of Report of Audit under any provision of the Act for the Previous Year 2020-21, which is 30th September 2021, is extended to 31st October 2021;
- The due date of furnishing Report from an Accountant by persons entering into international transaction or specified domestic transaction under section 92E of the Act for the Previous Year 2020-21, which is 31st October 2021, is extended to 30th November 2021;
- The due date of furnishing of Return of Income for the Assessment Year 2021-22, which is 31st October 2021 under sub-section (1) of section 139 of the Act, is extended to 30th November 2021;
- The due date of furnishing of Return of Income for the Assessment Year 2021-22, which is 30th November 2021 under sub-section (1) of section 139 of the Act, is extended to 31st December 2021;
- The due date of furnishing of belated/revised Return of Income for the Assessment Year 2021-22, which is 31st December 2021 under sub-section (4)/sub-section (5) of section 139 of the Act, is extended to 31st January 2022.

Clarification 1: It is clarified that the extension of the dates as referred to in clauses (9), (12) and (13) above shall not apply to Explanation 1 to section 234A of the Act, in cases where the amount of tax on the total income as reduced by the amount as specified in clauses (i) to (vi) of sub-section (1) of that section exceeds one lakh rupees.

Clarification 2: For the purpose of Clarification 1, in case of an individual resident in India referred to in sub-section (2) of section 207 of the Act, the tax paid by him under section 140A of the Act within the due date (without extension under this Circular) provided in that Act, shall be deemed to be the advance tax.

● Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare

● OM No. 1/11/2020-P&PW (E) Dated 29.07.2020

● **Sub:** Relaxation of Rule 80-A for payment of provisional Family Pension on death of a Government Servant during service.

1. The undersigned is directed to say that in accordance with Rule 80-A of the CCS (Pension) Rules 1972, on death of a Government servant during service, Head of Office shall sanction and draw provisional family pension and death gratuity in favour of claimant or claimants, after the family pension case, including Form 18 and other documents referred to in Rule 80, has been forwarded by the Head of Office to the Pay & Accounts Office. It has been brought to the notice of this Department that the process of forwarding the family pension case to Pay & Accounts Office along with requisite documents itself takes a long time. It is also understood that, in a large number of cases, provisional family pension and gratuity are not being sanctioned on death of a Government servant. The delay

in finalization of family pension and gratuity results in hardship to the family of the deceased Government servant.

2. The matter has been examined in this Department. In accordance with Rule 54 (2) (ii) of the CCS (Pension) Rules, on death of Government servant during service, the family of a deceased Government Servant becomes entitled to family pension even in cases where a government servant dies before completion of one year of continuous service, provided the deceased government servant concerned, immediately prior to his/ her appointment to the service or post, was examined by appropriate medical authority and declared fit by that authority. Thus family pension is payable to the family of deceased Government servant irrespective of the length of service of the Government servant before his death. Therefore, verification of the entire service is not relevant for determining the amount of family pension. The amount of death gratuity, however, depends on the length of qualifying service of the deceased Government servant. Any Government dues in respect of the deceased Government servant are also required to be recovered from the amount of death gratuity.
3. Keeping in view the position mentioned in para 2 above and in order to avoid any hardship to the family of the deceased Government servant, it has been decided to relax the provisions of rule 80-A of the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 to the extent that if a claim for family pension in Form 14 along with death certificate and bank account details of the claimant has been received and the Head of Office is satisfied about the bonafide of that claim, he shall sanction provisional family pension immediately. The Head of Office shall not wait for forwarding of the family pension case (including Form-14, Form-18 and other relevant documents mentioned in Rule 80) to Pay & Accounts Office before sanctioning the provisional family pension.
4. The amount of provisional family pension shall not exceed the maximum family pension as admissible under Rule 54 of CCS Pension Rules, 1972.
5. In Central Armed Police Forces related cases, where death of an employee occurs, initially provisional family pension may be sanctioned without waiting for the final Operation Casualty Report.
6. The Pay & Accounts Office shall release the provisional family pension on the basis of sanction order issued by the Head of Office without insisting for any other documents including service book. The provisional family pension shall be paid in the same manner as Pay and Allowances of the establishment are paid.
7. A format for sanctioning the provisional family pension by the Head of Department is enclosed.
8. There will be no change in regard to the provisions for sanction of provisional gratuity under Rule 80-A. Action for sanction of death gratuity under rule 80-A may be taken by the Head of Office after forwarding Form-18 and other relevant documents to Pay & Accounts Office. In case the amount of provisional family pension is later found to be in excess of the final family pension, the same may be adjusted from the amount of death gratuity, failing which, it may be recovered in instalments from the family pension payable in future.

9. The payment of provisional family pension sanctioned as per Para 3 above may initially continue for a period of six months from the date, following the date of death of employee. The period of such provisional family pension sanctioned may be further extended, for not more than six months at a time, on the advice of Pay & Accounts Office and with the approval of Head of Department (HOD).

10. The provisional family pension may continue to be paid for two months succeeding the month in which the Pension Payment Order for final family pension is issued by the Pay & Accounts Office, keeping in view the time likely to be taken by Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO) and Central Pension Processing Centre (CPPC) for processing the case. While authorizing final family pension after receipt of complete family pension case, the Pay & Account office shall indicate the date from which the family pension authorized in the Pension Payment Order is to be paid by the Pension Disbursing Authority. Accordingly, the Office of Pay & Account may record a note in the Pension Payment Order, as mentioned below, while authorizing the final family pension:

“Provisional family pension has been/shall be paid for the period from ----- to ----- @ Rs. ----- plus Dearness Relief. The payment of final family pension may be commenced by the bank w.e.f. -----.”

11. The Administrative Divisions of all Ministries/Department and attached/subordinate offices are requested to bring these instructions to the notice of all concerned for compliance.

The issues with the approval of Competent Authority

No.....

Government of India Ministry

of Department/Office.....

Dated the.....

To

Shri/Smt./Kumari..... (Name and address of claimant)

Subject: Grant of provisional family pension.

Sir/Madam

I am directed to say that Shri/Smt./Kumari..... (Name and designation) died on..... As per service record you are eligible to receive family pension.

2. In accordance with Rule 80-A of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 read with the O.M. No. 1/11/2020-P&PW (E) dated 29th July, 2020 of Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, sanction of the competent authority is hereby accorded for payment of an amount of Rs...../- per month as provisional family pension commencing from..... (Date following the date of death of Government servant)

- * The amount of provisional pension shall be 100% of family pension as assessed based on the pay on the date of death of Government servant.
3. The payment of provisional family pension sanctioned as per Para 3 of the OM No 1/11/2020-P&PW dated 29th July, 2020 may initially continue for a period of six months from the date, following the date of death of employee. The period of such provisional family pension sanctioned may be further extended, for not more than six months at a time, on the advice of Pay & Accounts Office and with the approval of Head of Department (HOD).
 4. If the amount of provisional family pension is found to be in excess of the final family pension, it shall be recovered from gratuity instalments from the family pension payable in future.

Yours faithfully,
Head of Department

Copy for information to the Pay and Accounts Officer

- **Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare**
 - **OM No. 1/11/2021-P&PW (E) Dated 03.06.2021**
 - **Sub:-Payment of family pension, death gratuity and other dues to the family on death of a Government servant during service – Regarding.**
1. The undersigned is directed to say that the Covid-19 pandemic has claimed lives of several Government employees during the recent surge. In many cases, the deceased employees were the sole bread-winners of their family and the casualties have left families devastated and in an urgent need for funds for livelihood. It is, therefore, incumbent on the Government to ensure that the family pension and other entitlements in respect of the deceased employees are released to their families expeditiously.
 2. The completion of the process for sanction of family pension and its disbursement through the Bank may take some time, as it involves reference to PAO and CPAO. To deal with such situations, Rule 80-A of the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 provides for payment of provisional family pension and also provisional death gratuity, pending issue of the Pension Payment Order (PPO).
 3. Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has issued instructions vide OM. No.1/11/2020-P&PW (E) dated 29th July, 2020 for sanction of provisional family pension by the Head of Office immediately on receipt of a claim for family pension and death certificate from the eligible family member, without waiting for forwarding of the family pension case to Pay & Accounts Office (PAO). Rule 80-A provides for payment of provisional death gratuity by the Head of Office once the family pension/death gratuity case has been forwarded to the PAO.
 4. In view of the above, all Ministries/Departments and their attached and subordinate offices are requested to strictly comply with the rules/instructions as brought out above and to ensure

that payment of provisional family pension is commenced by the Head of Office immediately on receipt of the claim (with death certificate) from the eligible family member and payment of provisional death gratuity is made to the nominees/family members immediately after forwarding the case to the PAO.

5. Simultaneously, the action may be taken on priority basis for disbursement of regular family pension through the Bank and for payment of other entitlements of the family on death of the Government servant. It may be ensured that the PPO for family pension is issued and disbursement of regular family pension is commenced by the Bank not later than one month of the receipt of the claim for family pension.
6. For facilitating expeditious disbursement of all the entitlements of the family on death of a Government servant, two separate notes- one in respect of the employees under Old Pension Scheme and the other in respect of the employees under National Pension System – are also enclosed as Annexure-I and Annexure-II, respectively.
7. All Ministries/Departments and their attached and subordinate offices will submit a monthly statement on 5th of every month to the Secretary of the Administrative Department in the following format:

Name & Designation of Government servant died since 1.1.2020ww	Date on which provisional family pension and provisional gratuity were sanctioned.	Date on which PPO was issued	Date on which other entitlements were paid	Reasons for the delays, if any, and remedial action taken to avoid delays in future

8. A consolidated statement in respect of the Ministry/Department and its attached and subordinate offices may be sent by each Ministry/Department to this Department by 10th of each month.

Annexure- 1

ENTITLEMENTS OF FAMILY ON DEATH OF A GOVERNMENT SERVANT DURING SERVICE

(1) Entitlements of family on death of a Government servant under Old Pension Scheme

A. Family Pension :

Amount : 50% of last pay for a period of 10 years from the date following the date of death. Thereafter @ 30% of last pay.

(Enhanced family pension @50% of pay is payable for 10 years in all cases without reference to the length of service of the deceased employee, as per amended Rule 54(3))

Eligibility of family members: : Family pension will be paid to members of family in the following order;-

*A child (other than a child suffering from a mental or physical disability) and parents shall be eligible, if their income from other sources is less than the minimum family pension (i.e. Rs.

Sl.No	Eligible family member	Conditions of eligibility
1	Spouse of the deceased Government servant	For life or remarriage
2	In the absence of spouse, unmarried dependent* son or unmarried dependent* daughter below the age of 25 years. (Eldest child shall be eligible first. Other(s) will be eligible only after elder child becomes ineligible).	Till (i) attaining the age of 25 years or (ii) marriage or (iii) start earning livelihood, whichever is earliest,
3	In the absence of (1) and (2) above, dependent** child suffering from a mental or physical disability.	For life or till starts earning livelihood.
4	In the absence of (1), (2) and (3) above, dependent* unmarried/ widowed/ divorced daughter (without age limit) (Eldest daughter shall be eligible first)	Till (i) marriage/remarriage or (ii) starts earning livelihood, whichever is earlier,
5	In the absence of (1), (2), (3) and (4) above dependent* parents (Mother first)	For life or till start earning livelihood.
6	In the absence of (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) above, dependent* sibling suffering from mental or physical disability.	For life or till start earning livelihood.

9000/- p.m.) plus dearness relief thereon.

**A child or sibling suffering from a mental or physical disability shall be eligible if their overall income from other sources is less than the entitled family pension admissible on death of Government servant plus dearness relief thereon.

Documents required to be submitted by the claimant for family pension: (i) Application in Form 14, (ii) a copy of death certificate, (iii) proof of relationship, (iv) proof of date of birth, (v) copy of first page of the Pass Book, (vi) copy of PAN card. (vii) Specimen signature and (viii) PP size photographs

Action to be taken By HOO:

- Sanction provisional family pension to eligible family member immediately on receipt of claim, without waiting for forwarding of case to PAO or authorisation by PAO. (Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare's OM No. 1/11/2020-P&PW (E) dated 29th July, 2020)
- Separately, process the case for family pension and death gratuity in Bhavishya and forward the case to PAO in Form 18 along with other documents for further processing/authorisation. (Rule 80)
- Government dues such as HBA, licence fee, etc. are to be recovered from death gratuity.

B. Death Gratuity:

Length of qualifying service	Rate of death gratuity
● Less than 1 year	2 times of emoluments
● One year or more but less than 5 years	6 times of emoluments
● 5 years or more but less than 11 years	12 times of emoluments
● 11 years or more but less than 20 years	20 times of emoluments
● 20 years or more	Half of emoluments for every completed six-monthly period of qualifying service subject to a maximum of 33 times of emoluments

Maximum amount of death gratuity: Rs. 20 lakh.

Eligibility:

- Gratuity is to be paid to the family member(s)/person(s) in whose favour a valid nomination exists. If there are more than one nominee, amount of gratuity shall be shared by all nominees as specified in the nomination.
- If a nominee has pre-deceased the Government servant, then the gratuity is to be paid to the alternate nominee(s), if any, mentioned in the nomination form.
- If there is no nomination or the nomination made does not subsist, the amount of gratuity is to be equally shared among spouse, son(s), unmarried daughter(s) and widowed daughter(s).
- If none of these family members is available, the amount of gratuity is to be equally divided among other family members, i.e. father, mother, married daughters, brothers below 18 years, unmarried/widowed sisters and children of a pre-deceased son.
- Succession certificate is not to be asked for unless there is no valid nomination and also none of the family members mentioned above is available.

Documents required to be submitted by the claimant for gratuity : (i) Application in Form 12, (ii) Death certificate, (iii) copy of PAN card, (iv) copy of first page of bank pass book and (v) proof of relationship.

Action by H.O:

- Process the case for death gratuity (along with family pension) in Bhavishya and forward the case to PAO in Form 18 along with other documents for further processing/authorisation.
- Sanction provisional death gratuity in accordance with Rule 80-A, after forwarding the case to PAO

C. Cash equivalent of leave salary (Leave Encashment)

As per Rule 39-A of CCS (Leave) Rules, 1972, cash equivalent of leave salary for earned leave not exceeding 300 days is payable to the family. If the earned leave in the credit of the deceased Government servant is less than 300 days, half pay leave is encashed to the extent the earned leave is short of 300 days.

Eligibility : One of the available family members in this order -> Spouse, eldest surviving son, eldest surviving unmarried daughter, eldest surviving widowed daughter, father/mother, eldest surviving married daughter, eldest surviving brother below the age of eighteen years, eldest surviving unmarried sister, eldest surviving widowed sister; eldest child of the eldest predeceased son.

Leave encashment is processed/sanctioned by HOO on receipt of death certificate without seeking any application for this purpose.

D. Central Government Employees Group Insurance Scheme (CGEGIS)

Amount : In addition to the amount standing in the Savings Fund of CGEGIS, an amount of Rs. 1,20,000, Rs. 60,000/- and Rs. 30000/- is paid to the family of the deceased employee belonging to Group A, Group B and Group C, respectively.

Eligibility of family members:

- CGEGIS amount is payable to family member(s)/person(s) in whose favour a valid

nomination exists.

- In the absence of a nomination, the amount is paid to the family members eligible as per the rules applicable for payment of death gratuity.
- The claim for CGEGIS is processed/sanctioned on receipt of death certificate without seeking any application for this purpose.

E. General Provident Fund (GPF)

- On receipt of the death certificate, the balance in the GPF account of the deceased Government is sanctioned to the family member(s)/person(s) in whose favour a valid nomination exists. In the absence of a nomination, GPF balance is paid to the family members eligible as per GPF Rules.
- As per the Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme under Rule 33-B of the GPF Rules, in addition to the GPF balance, an additional amount equal to the average balance in the GPF account during the 3 years immediately preceding the death of the Government is also paid, subject to the conditions that the balance at the credit did not, at any time during the three years preceding the month of death, fall below the limits mentioned in Rule 33-B.
- The additional amount to be paid shall not exceed Rs. 60,000/-.
- The claims for GPF/DLIS are to be processed/sanctioned by the office on receipt of death certificate.

Annexure-2

(1) Entitlements of family on death of a Government servant under National Pension System who had opted for benefits under Old Pension Scheme or in whose case, no option was exercised and the default option is Old Pension Scheme

- **Family Pension** : Same as under Old Pension Scheme.

In addition, employee's contributions and returns thereon in the NPS pension Corpus shall also be paid to the family member. HOO will start process to sanction family pension and simultaneously close PRAN under NPS and Government contribution (and returns thereon) would be transferred into the Government account. Remaining amount would be paid in lump sum to the nominee or legal heir as per PFRDA regulations.

Death Gratuity : Same as under Old Pension Scheme

Cash equivalent of leave salary (Leave Encashment) : Same as under Old Pension Scheme

Central Government Employees Group Insurance Scheme (CGEGIS) : Same as under Old Pension Scheme

(2) Entitlements of family on death of a Government servant under National Pension System:

- (i) who had specifically opted for benefits under NPS based on accumulated pension corpus or
 - (ii) who had opted for Old Pension Scheme or in whose case default option is Old Pension Scheme but there is no family member eligible for family pension under Old Pension Scheme
- **Benefits based on NPS Corpus**: Concerned office would take action to close PRAN under NPS of the deceased Government servant and grant benefits of lump sum

(maximum 20% of accumulated pension wealth) and annuity from the remaining pension wealth to the eligible family member from annuity service provider registered with PFRDA, in accordance with PFRDA (Exits and Withdrawals under NPS) Regulations, 2015

- **Death Gratuity** : Same as under Old Pension Scheme
- **Cash equivalent of leave salary (Leave Encashment)** : Same as under Old Pension Scheme
- **Central Government Employees Group Insurance Scheme (CGEGIS)** : Same as under Old Pension Scheme.
- **Ministry of Finance – Department of Expenditure**
- **OM No.19030/1/2017-E.IV Dated 15.06.2021**
- **Subject: Time-limit for submission of claims for Travelling Allowance (TA) on Retirement – regarding.**

1. The undersigned is directed to refer to this Department's OM No.19030/1/2017-E.IV dated 13.03.2018 wherein the time limit for submission of claims for TA on Tour/Transfer/Training / Journey on Retirement was changed from one year to sixty days, succeeding the date of completion of the journey.
2. Several references have been received in the Department regarding extension of time-limit for submission of TA claims in r/o journeys performed by retired employees and their families for going to Home town/place of settlement after retirement as difficulties are being faced by the retired Govt. officials while claiming reimbursement of TA on retirement within a period of sixty days of completion of their journey.
3. The matter has been considered in this Department and in partial modification of this Department's OM of even number dated 13.03.2018, it has been decided that the time-limit for submission of claims for TA on retirement is modified from 60 days to 180 days (six months), succeeding the date of completion of the journey.
4. The time limit for submission of TA claim on tour, transfer and training will remain as 60 days.
5. These orders will be effective from the date of issue of this order. However, the claims not settled due to time limit of 60 days in terms of the O.M dated 13.03.2018 on the subject may be re-considered by the concerned Ministry/ Department.
6. In their application to the persons belonging to Indian Audit and Accounts Department, these orders are issued under Article 148(5) of the Constitution and after consultation with the Comptroller & Auditor General of India.
7. This is issued with the approval of Finance Secretary & Secretary (Expenditure).

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