



NCCPA NEWS LETTER

organ of
National Co-ordination Committee of Pensioners's Associations
13C, Feroz Shah Road, New Delhi-110001

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Vol. 11 **No.3**
March- 2019

Office:
13.C Feroz Shah Road
New Delhi-110001

Single Copy; Rs.6.00
Annual Subscription.Rs. 60.

Cheques and Drafts meant for
the Journal may please be
drawn in the name of Pavitra
Chakraborty Associate Editor,
Payable at Kolkata



Com. KKN. Kutty, Secretary General addressing the dharna fast participants of NCCPA on 15.3.2019 at Jantar Mantar.



A view of the dharna fast participants of NCCPA at Jantar Mantar on 15.3.2019.

Towards 17th Lok Sabha

The Election Commission of India has notified the dates for general election to elect the members of the 17th Lok Sabha. In independent India, this election and its results are going to be very crucial. The result will decide the very fate of the country as a secular democratic republic.

During the 5 year period the BJP and their allies were in power, consistently they have acted contrary to the general principles of governance guaranteed by our constitution i.e to provide justice to the people, social economic and political. It continued with the hated neo-liberal economic policies, the change of which was the ardent hope of the people when they voted them to power in 2014. The UPA-2 regime's adherence to these policies, discarding the welfare schemes which had been the greatest source of sustenance for the poor people in the country especially against the spiralling price rise ; permitting the unhindered foray of private enterprises in every sphere of economic and industrial activities, the rampant corruption etc., were the main cause of concern for the Indian multitude in 2014 They expected a change, a change that will bring about at least deliverance from poverty and hunger. They are disappointed and are despondent.

To recall our own experience with this Government will convince us of its attitude towards the working people in general and its own employees in particular. We know the way this Govt took the decision on 7th CPC recommendations. There had been no negotiation at all- a complete departure from what had been the practice hithero. The mutilation of the formula for computation of minimum wage was not subjected to scrutiny. Assurances held out to force withdrawal of strike action was never honoured ; not even once the group of Ministers met the workers' representatives. The JCM, which

was set up as a forum for continuous dialogue with the workers representatives never met even once during the Modi regime. The leaders were forced to sit in Dharna before the Parliament house seeking a meeting is the stage to which the central govt. employees' movement has been reduced to. Even small issues, which has a bearing over a very small section of the employees are not addressed. Only that benefits the higher elections in the bureaucracy gets consideration and favourable nod. The employees are dragged to litigation at various levels. The orders of the administrative tribunals are not honoured. Contrary to the very purpose of setting up of the administrative tribunals i.e to expedite the justice delivery system and contrary to its own direction that no appeal must be preferred to the order of tribunals, this Govt had been filing even writ petitions before the high courts and supreme court making the poor pensioner and employees to shell out enormous money on litigation. It had also been our experience that most of the cases filed by the govt get knocked out but only after the lapse of horrendous decades of postings and adjournments. Even after this procrastinated and cruel journey it takes years to get it implemented that too only in the case of litigants compelling others who are similarly placed to pursue litigation again. This has been the gruelling story of pensioners and employees in the last 5 years. Never in the history of wage negotiation the Govt. especially in the matter of pension, had taken recourse to rejection of a recommendation made by the Pay Commission. Before the courts, the Govt avers that the recommendation of the Pay Commission must be treated as one that has emanated from an expert body after deliberations of all pros and cons and respected. It was therefore, as indicated in the preceding paras for the first time that the govt chose to reject the recommendation made by the 7th CPC. The option No., 1 was conceived by the Commission to bring in parity between the past and present pensioners in

real terms. It was rejected on the malicious ground that it is not feasible to be implemented in the absence of relevant records. It was admitted unashamedly that the records which are relevant are available in 86% of the cases and in the rest the other supplementary evidences could be collected to operationalise the Option No. 1. Still it was rejected. It is also not difficult to discern the real reason behind such rejection as the said recommendation was not providing the requisite benefit to the personnel in organised Group A Services, as they are favoured with an almost time bound promotion scheme throughout their career. The alternative suggestion made by the committee was to benefit the very same personnel in Group A. It was strange that even the most sensible suggestion put forth by the Staff Side to offer all the three options to the employees was summarily rejected.

Throughout its five year reign, this Govt, had been all along pursuing crony capitalism. The decision taken by the Govt., just before the election notification was out, to hand over the six Indian airports to Adani Company is a befitting example. The country has been going through a continuous period of crisis, be it in agriculture, farm prices, industry, trade, or employment. Farm income has crashed to its lowest levels against the poll promise of doubling it; rural wage growth was abysmally low at 0.5 percentage, unemployment has risen to the highest peak in the past 45 years as per CME, whose report has been concealed; the money collected on the sale of PSUs had been doubled in these 5 years; all constitutional institutions were subjected to attack, eroding its sacro-sanct autonomy, resurgence of corruption in the defence deals involving crores, Indulgence in jingoistic nationalism to garner votes, to put faith and belief beyond the pale of the constitutional law; and above all systematic disruption of the social harmony; had been some of hall marks of the present Govt in its 5 year long governance. The question everyone of us is called upon to answer is whether this state of affairs must continue or not?

If not, we are to act decisively at the hustings to bring about change in governance, make country a safe haven for all shades of opinions and views to flourish; democracy to survive and to ensure the end of predatory neo-liberal regime.

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Report on the 2nd World Congress of the TUI (Pensioners and Retirees)WFTU.

NCCPA had received the invitation to attend the first world congress of the Trade Union International (Pensioners and Retired) in 2014. For reasons beyond its control, especially due to the visa related problems, Com. R.L. Bhattacharjee, who was the President of the NCCPA then could not go over to Barcelona, Spain then. NCCPA decided to formally seek affiliation with the world Body at its Kolkata Conference held in 2015. Thereafter the meeting of the TUI, Asia – Pacific region was held at Kathmandu and the NCCPA could send its Secretary to attend the said meeting. Trade Union International is a wing of the World Federation of Trade Unions. TUI is normally organised to have specific discussions on issues pertaining to a particular industry. TUI (Pensioners and Retired) is, therefore, an integral part of the WFTU. The General Secretaries of TUI normally attend all the Managing committee meetings of the WFTU.



1. A view of the members on the diaz of 2nd world congress of TUI (P &R) at Bogota.

Due to certain communication difficulties, NCCPA received the formal invitation to attend the 2nd World Congress rather late . It took enormous amount of time to complete the visa formalities and obtain visa from the Columbian Embassy in India. Bogota, the capital of Columbia a Latin American Country in South America had been chosen to host the 2nd world congress. It was only a day before the scheduled departure date, the visa was ultimately obtained and the undersigned could go over to Bogota.

NCCPA was represented at the world congress by the undersigned along with Com. K. Raghavendran, our Deputy General Secretary and the General Secretary of the All India Postal & RMS Pensioners Association, Com. K. G. Jayaraj, Asst. General Secretary and the General Secretary of All India BSNL & DOT pensioners Association. We reached Bogota on 25th Feb. Night and was well received by the host Unit.

The Congress was scheduled for 27th and 28th Feb. 2019. The Congress had a very tight schedule in as much as the meeting commenced at 7.30 AM on 27th and went on upto 8.00 PM. The next day also the deliberations commenced at 7.30 AM and was concluded at about 2.00PM to enable the delegates to visit the National Museum of Columbia arranged by the host Unit. The museum had been housed in a very aesthetically designed building and had been arranged in such a manner that one could travel through the evolution of the culture, civilisation and history of the country. We encountered no problem during our stay at Columbia except the difficulties of conversation. Columbians speak Spanish and that had been the only impediment in our interaction with them. However, with the help and assistance provided by the Panamian delegates, Com. Danny Caldon, we could manage the affairs well.

Most of the speeches delivered at the Congress had been in Spanish, French, or Portugese. Though there had been instant translation, it could not catch or carry the nuances and content properly. Only the Indian and Russian Delegation spoke in English.

It was in a surcharged atmosphere, the Congress was held. Columbian Trade Unions and their leaders were facing a very tough situation in as



2. A view of the delwegates attending the Bogota Congress of TUI.

much as 24 of the T.U. leaders had been hounded out and eliminated. It was, as reported by the Columbian delegation, a reign of terror that had been unleashed by the Employers with the active assistance and help coming from the rightwing Government presently in power in Columbia. The anger and anguish of the comrades naturally spilled over to the inaugural session, where the Labour Minister of the Country addressed the delegates. She was interrupted on several occasion and was not allowed to make any untrue statement without being questioned. The organisers had a very difficult time to contain the emotion of the Columbian delegates. The house unanimously placed on record the courage and conviction of the host unit in arranging the world congress at such trying times.

Throughout the Conference, the political turmoil of Venezuela got reverberated. The suppression and the machinations of the USA and other imperialist powers to destabilise the elected Government was brought to the fore by speaker after speaker from the Latin American Countries. Being a neighbouring country, comrades of Columbia were fully aware of the despicable events unfolding in Venezuela at the instance of America whose only interest was the oil reserves of Venezuela. While the entire third world countries had been condemning what was happening in Venezuela , Indian once the leaders of the third world and non aligned nations had been keeping the most undignified silence. India has become so subservient to USA and the imperialist powers, that it could not even express its opinion in a free and fair manner. The Congress

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had no hesitation at all to condemn the US and its imperialist allies over what they were doing in Venezuela as also the right wing Government of Columbia, who had sided with the USA in the murky affair.

The Congress had the presence of 60 International delegates and more than 100 Columbian observers and representatives . The international delegation was spread over the four continents viz. Europe, America, Africa and Asia Quite a number of countries could make over to attend the Congress because of the inordinate delay at the Columbian Embassies and their totally unhelpful attitude in providing visa to the delegates attending the Congress. The presentations made by the delegates clearly provided an insight into the general political atmosphere in different countries, the attack mounted by the ruling class at the instance of IMF and world Bank on the livelihood of the workers and pensioners, the system of pension in existence or its absence, the social security system or the attack thereon under the neo liberal policies, the attack on pension especially under the austerity regime, the struggles going on in various countries etc. etc. The demand that arose in the house in all deliberation was of the need to have the National Minimum wage to be the Minimum Pension. Due to our lack of understanding of the Spanish, French and Portugese languages, we could not pick up the full purport of the speeches delivered at the Congress but could discern without difficulties that the IMF and World Bank have penetrated into the internal governance of almost all countries and the policies evolved had always been anti worker in character. The TUI has promised to provide us a compendium of presentations made



3. Com.KKN Kutty addressing the newly elected executive committee meeting on 1st March, 2019 at Bogota.

at the Congress, which may be difficult to publish but could be made available for study. That will also facilitate us to understand and comprehend the situation obtaining in each of the country, be it developed, under developed or undeveloped.

The struggles undertaken by the Russian working class and the Pensioners and the contours thereof had been the theme and substance of the speech delivered by Com. Sergey Skvortsov , the Russian delegate to the Congress. He explained in details how the combined force of Pensioners and working people could thwart the Putin Administration's proposal to increase the retirement age in Russia. As is the case with all the international trade union meets, Cuban delegation received the warmest reception and felicitation and greetings from the Congress. It was with rapt attention that the delegates heard them explaining the manner in which the tiny nation could overcome the brutal and inhuman sanctions imposed by the US and other imperialist Nations. The Congress heard with great pleasure and applause, the Cuban delegates stating that both in respect of Civil Servants and Military Personnel, the Government of Cuba bears the total expenses on pension and the same is a defined benefit scheme that is in vogue in Cuba.

All the three Indian representatives spoke at the Congress, explaining the various facets of the pension and social security scheme available in India. The speeches delivered by them will be carried in the journal in the current and the next issue, depending upon the space available. The Indian delegation also submitted the following proposal for the consideration of the Congress and inclusion in the final declaration. The final declaration adopted at the Congress is still to be finalised and as and when it is received from the TUI H.q, we shall publish the same in our journal. The TUI (HQRs) indicated to us that they would require some time to go into the proposal, analyse its universal applicability and take appropriate decision. The newly elected Executive Committee will take up the issue as and when they formally meet.

(a)To spell out that there must be a universal social security system in all countries financed fully by the Exchequer.



4. Com. K. Raghavendran, GS AIPRPA addressing the Congress at Bogota.

(b) All contributory based annuities must have a guaranteed minimum return taking into account the length of the lock-in period;

(c) To ensure that the minimum guaranteed pension must not be less than the respective National Minimum wage.

(d) The defined benefit pension scheme wherever in vogue must continue.

(e) A day may be determined to be observed as Pension Protection day throughout the world.

There had been very good presence of the women delegation at the Congress. Of the International delegates, 14 were women. The Cambodian delegation also consisted of 14 women comrades. The house appreciated the efforts taken by the organisers for making this possible. The TUI has decided to increase the women delegation further and a separate commission to go into the issues pertaining to women has been set up.

At the concluding stage of the Congress, i.e. on 28th Com. Quim Boix presented a panel of office bearers, Executive Committee Members and Various other Commissions. The Executive Committee had 40 members of which 13 were office bearers. The Technical and Research



5. Com. K.G. Jayaraj, G.S. AIBDPA addressing the world congress at Bogota.

Commission has six members and the Finance Control Commission has three members. Com. K.G. Jayaraj will be the Indian representative in the Executive Committee, Com. K.Raghavendran in the Technical and Research Commission and Com.KKN Kutty in the Finance Control Commission.

On 1st March, the elected office bearers and Committee members along with the members of the Technical & Research Commission and Finance Control Commission sat for about 4 hours and discussed the future course of functioning of the TUI. The Committee expressed their desire that the next Conference must be held within the stipulated period provided for by the Constitution of the TUI. A view was expressed that taking into all factors, the next conference must preferably held in the Asian Continent. The List of officer bearers, Executive Committee members and other Commission members would be published only in the next issue of our journal as we are yet to receive the official version from the HQRs. It is need to ensure that the names are spelt properly and no inadvertent mistakes are crept in.

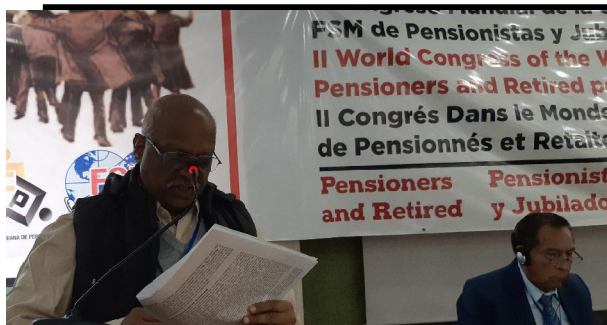
KKN. KUTTY
Secretary General.

Full text of the speech delivered by Com. KKN. Kutty at the Bogota Congress of TUI (P &R)

Comrades in the presidium,
Com. Antonio Ferero, President
Com, Quim Boix, general secretary,
Distinguished Guests, Comrades, Delegates of various affiliates from different Nations attending the second international congress of TUI (Pensioners and retirees) being held at Bogota on 27th and 28th Feb 2019.

I stand before you to make a presentation on behalf of the National Co-Ordination Committee of pensioners Associations, India. NCCPA in short, as we are called, is the apex organization of all Pensioners Associations in our country. The issues and demands generally pertaining to the pensioners are taken up by NCCPA. We can with certain amount of pride state that only after the formation of NCCPA, the Pensioners and Retired personnel in India had begun to assert and take a pro-active political role in raising the standard of living of senior citizens of our country. In

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6. Com. KKN. Kutty addressing the Congress of TUI at Bogota.

all spheres of political activities of our country, the voice of Pensioners and senior citizens, as a collective voice has started echoing. We have noted with appreciation the views and suggestions made by both the president and General secretary in their speeches and presentations and undoubtedly agree with them. The world Capitalist order based on exploitation has to end. That must be also our ultimate goal and objective for which we worked throughout our life as a worker and how to continue it for the rest of our life. We wholeheartedly endorse the report of the General secretary, his analysis of the world situation and approve his suggestions for drawing our future task. The largest number of members of NCCPA continues to be the pensioners belonging to the Federal Govt of India. Two more of my colleagues are attending this congress. They represent the biggest chunk of retired personnel of the communication ministry. i.e Postal and Telecommunications. Since they will be making separate presentations to this house, let me not touch upon those issues, on which they are likely to concentrate.

Till very recently India did not have a universal social security system, Even now it is absent. A contributory system has commenced but it cannot and does not cover the present old people of our country.

Civil servants were the only segment of employees who were getting pension on retirement. That was introduced by the erstwhile British Colonial Rulers of our country to attract efficient but servile middle class from Indian society to perpetuate the colonial exploitative regime. The free India continued it.

After the adoption of the neo-liberal economic policies even that has been withdrawn. On the advise of the IMF and World bank they introduced contributory System. The contribution made by the employees and the one made out by the Govt from exchequer, i.e tax payer money (which is presently a little more

than the employees' contribution) are channelled through Mutual Funds to stock markets and corporate entities with the result that it has become virtually a

no Pension Scheme because nobody knows what the Indian corporates where the money has sunk will be able to offer after 3-4 decades, when the contributor retires from active service. There is every possibility that these start-up companies that has come into existence by virtue of the availability of easy money from Mutual funds might go bankrupt. That had been the fate of many a new companies in Indian investing market.

There is a big movement gaining momentum. in our country against this loot by the government. The entire Federal and provisional Govts employees along with the major chunk of the Indian Working Class were on strike on 8th and 9th January 2019. Millions of Govt employees participated in the Strike.

The pensioners organizations in our country including NCCPA and all its affiliates took a very active role in the movement. On 15th March 2019, the NCCPA is organising yet another mass rally before the Indian parliament. it has decided to carry out a great propaganda against the new contributory pension system in particular and for the introduction of a universal social security scheme for all India citizens beyond the age of 60 in April and May 2019. i.e on the eve of the coming general elections in our country which will elect the 17th house of commons of our parliament.

We realise the need for a very strong movement of Pensioners and Retired Personnel in the face of serious attack on social security by the Government all over the world and the utter disregard to their needs by the society. We shall stand by the TUI and WFTU in all its endeavours in this direction and assure our co-operation and participation in all programmes, TUI of Pensioners and Retirees chalks out in future.

Before I step down from the podium, I sincerely thank and express our gratitude for the excellent arrangements made by the host unit and Colombian Pensioners Organization and the great hospitality extended by them to us. Thanks one again.

TUI of P&R long Live..

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Published hereunder copy of NCCPA Circular dated: 20th March 2019.

Dharna fast at Jantar Mantar on 15.3.2019

As has been decided by the National Executive Committee at its meeting held at Chennai on 5.08.2019

the dharna fast programme was carried out on 15th March, 2019 at Jantar Mantar. We had to encounter quite a number of problems as has been the case on the earlier occasions to get the permission of the Police authorities of Delhi to conduct the programme. This time, the excuse for refusing permission was the notification (Press release) of the Election Commission declaring election for the 17th Lok Sabha. The Police authorities wanted us to get the permission of the Election observer at Delhi for which our comrades at Delhi has to endeavour for a whole day. At the end of the day, the Election Observer rightly observed that she was appointed as an observer for holding the election and not for holding Dharna. In the evening, a meeting of the available comrades was held and it was decided that what may, we will hold the Dharna at Jantar Mantar. The Police ultimately did not object and the programme went on without any further hindrance.

The programme commenced at about 11.30 AM. Com. V.A.N. Namboodiri, Patron NCCPA was the first speaker and detailed the purport of the programme. Com. Shiv Gopal Misra, President, NCCPA inaugurated the programme and the same was conducted by the Secretary General, Com. KKN. Kutty. We had invited all the Federations and Associations of the working employees and most of them could come and greet the programme. Com. Deep Chand on behalf of the Delhi Unit welcomed the participants. Other speakers included Com. Pavitra Chakraborty, Com. K. Raghavendran, Com. Jayaraj, Com. I.S. Dabas, Com. H.S. Sidhu, Com. Rehman, Com. T.M. Parameswaran. Com. Parasar, Com. Giriraj Singh, (Both from NFPE) Com. Brighu Bhattacharya, (Civil Accounts) Com. Ashok Kanojia, (Confederation) Com. Ajoy Tewari, (ITEF) were the speakers who greeted the dharna programme. Almost all the speakers exhorted the participants to take note of the nugatory attitude of the Government towards Central Government pensioners for the past 5 years and utilize the strength and power to vote them out of power. The programme was concluded at 2.30 PM.

The National Executive had targeted to ensure the participation of about 2000 comrades in the programme. Though we could not achieve it (the participation was estimated to be about 1500), it had been a fantastic programme. We publish hereunder a photograph we have taken almost about 1.00PM, when the programme was going on, which no doubt will bring out the success of it in clear terms. The National Secretariat which met on 16th had unanimously opined that despite the hurdles created, (the IB and its sleuths spreading the canard of cancellation of the programme on the pretext of the declaration of the election) was nassive and magnificent. Some of the comrades, unfortunately without even verifying the facts had

cancelled the tickets believing the rumour spread. There had been some other cancellations too as the last minute problem of physical disabilities of the participating comrades and cancellation of flights especially the Jet flights. It was heartening to note that every affiliate of the NCCPA had tried to adhere to the quota, some exceeding. As on the last occasion, this time also the best participation came from the All India BSNL and DOT Pensioners Association, who had earlier organized a march to Sanchar Bhawan from Eastern Court to highlight their own specific demands and problems. The NCCPA Sectt. has requested its affiliates and State Units to undertake a proper review to identify the deficiencies so that it could be removed effectively before we could undertake further programmes. The NCCPA will be grateful if the affiliates and the State Units convey to us immediately on receipt of this communication of the extent of participation of their members (State-wise) to have a clear picture. Before I conclude, let me place on record that the programme had been a grand success in as much as we could demonstrate the discontent and grievances of the Central Government pensioners in an extremely magnificent manner and the credit for which goes to each and every participant and the leaders at the State and district levels who took the pains to elicit their participation, look after them properly and ensure that they return to their homes with fond memories. The message that the time has come to think seriously to bring in a government which will think in terms of the welfare of the Senior Citizens and the poor in the country has gone unambiguously and loudly amongst the pensioner community.

National Sectt. Meeting: 16.3.2019.

The meeting was held at AIRF Library Hall, presided over by Com.V.A. N. Namboodiri, Patron of NCCPA. The Secretariat reviewed the conduct of and participation in the programme, the conclusion of which has been detailed in the preceding paragraph. In order to comprehend the strength and weakness, which is the very purpose of such reviews, the meeting has decided to call for details of participation from each of the affiliate and State Unit so that corrective steps could be taken to remove the weakness in the organisation. The meeting noted that the absence of the important office bearers of NCCPA, i.e. Secretary General, Deputy and Assistant Secretary Generals, who had to be away from 24th Feb. to 9th March, to attend the TUI meeting at Bogota must have acted as a debilitating factor, which was in any case unavoidable.

Agenda Item No. 2. Court Cases:

Option No. 1. The suggestion of the Secretary General, emanating from the discussions, he had with the Advocates to the effect that petition must be filed before the Pr. Bench of the Tribunal was accepted by the

house. The proposal of CGPA Kerala to engage Shri Kaleeswaramraj & Associates was also accepted. The package deal for the case is reported to be Rs. 2 lakhs, of which one lakh has to be paid at the time of filing the case. The Secretary General will meet the Advocates in the first week of April and will finalise the matter so that the petition could be filed when the court re-opens after the summer vacation. It was decided that each affiliate and the State Committee will contribute to the litigation fund. The amount to be contributed will be worked out by the Secretary General after ascertaining the membership base of each of them.

MACP Case. It was decided to file the case after obtaining application from those who are affected or benefitted. Each applicant will be asked to pay Rs. 1000 initially and the advocate identified at the instance of AIPRPA will be engaged. All affiliates and State units will collect the applications and forward the same to the CHQ without further loss of time.

NCCPA Journal. The journal, it was noted, is running in losses. To obviate the difficulties the only way was to increase its price, which can only be done at the next conference. In the meantime, the Assistant Treasurer and the comrade in charge of printing the magazine at Kolkata will prepare an Income and Expenditure Statement from 2015 to date and send the same to the CHQ. They will also indicate the amount of dues outstanding so that steps could be taken to recover it.

Finance: It was brought to the notice of the house that the travelling expenses to go over to Bogota had to be met by the Secretary General from his personal funds and the same has to be reimbursed. While the outstanding dues as per the present provisions of the constitution will be worked out by the treasurer it was decided by the house to seek donation to carry out the day to day activities of the CHQ. The Secretary General indicated that he was not in possession of the list of all the affiliates till date and Com. Pavitra Chakraborty has promised to provide him a copy thereof immediately. In the meantime, all affiliates are requested to provide the details of membership for the year F.Y. 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 separately. This will enable the Sectt. To work out the details of outstanding.

Next Conference: At the last National Executive Committee meeting, Comrades from Rajasthan CGPA had been requested to undertake the exercise of feasibility of conducting the conference. It was informed to the house that so far no concrete suggestion has come from them. The house discussed the matter further as the Conference was overdue. The meeting decided that in any case conference must be held before the end of 2019. A final reply from Rajasthan may be solicited before the end of the month. AIPRPA, Tamilnadu State Unit will in

the meantime explore the possibility of holding the conference at Chennai and intimate the outcome of their discussions to the Secretary General.

Affiliation application. The application from the Punjab National Bank Pensioners association was considered. The representatives of the said organization were present at the meeting. The members had the opportunity to hear them explain their case. The Bank Comrades will be provided with the copy of the constitution of NCCPA. The meeting authorized the Secretary General to grant affiliation to them.

Any other matter. Com. Somayya presented a paper containing the grievances of the CGHS beneficiaries to the meeting. It was told that JCM is making efforts to have a meeting with the health secretary to discuss the issues.

Com. Secretary General informed the house that the NCCPA has been granted the PAN No. though the communication is yet to be received in writing. He hoped that the same will be delivered at the Treasurer's residence soon.

TUI WORLD CONGRESS:

The Second world congress of the TUI (Pensioners and Retirees) was held at Bogota in Columbia. The NCCPA was represented by its Secretary General, Com. K.K.N. Kutty and on behalf of AIPRPA, Com. K. Raghavendran and on behalf of AIBDPA, Com. K.G. Jayaraj attended the congress. A detailed report over the congress has been placed on the website and the same is carried by our journal for this month. It is to be noted that there had been no other representatives from India. All the Indian delegates have been elected to the administering Committees of the TUI. Com. K.G. Jayaraj has been elected to be one of the Executive Committee member, Com. K.Raghavendran in the Technical and Research Committee and Com. K.K.N. Kutty in the Finance Control commission. The TUI (P &R) is a vibrant international body and had been functioning in the last five years very well and have extended its influence to all continents. The responsibility of the expanding its base in Asia particularly is now cast upon NCCPA, even though the Nepalese delegation has been elected to be one of the office bearers. Com. K.G. Jayaraj particularly will have this carved out for him and our success will make NCCPA a world respected body.

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,
Sd/-
K.K.N. Kutty
Secretary General.

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March-2019

Published hereunder copy of JCM letter No.NC-JCM-2019/NPS dated March 8, 2019.

To
The Chief Executive,
All Recognised National and State level Political
Parties

Sub:- Proposal to include in the election manifesto of your party with regard to the scrapping of the National Pension System which has taken away the pension right of Central Government Employees

Dear Sir / Madam,

We write this on behalf of the organisations of the Central Government employees participating in the Joint Consultative Machinery, set up by the Government of India in 1960s as a negotiating forum to settle various demands and grievances of the employees through discussions. In the meeting that was held on 8th February, 2019, of the Standing committee of the National Council, Staff Side, it was unanimously decided that I in my capacity as the Convener, National Joint Council of Action (NJCA), must write to you to draw your kind attention to one of the most significant demands of the Central Government employees i.e. to replace the newly introduced contributory pension scheme with the old statutory defined Pension system and also to restore the GPF Scheme which was withdrawn by the Government. I have been asked to seek your support to this vital demand of the employees especially of the young workers who have entered government service after 1.1.2004 and obtain an assurance from you that you will accede to the demand for the withdrawal of the New contributory scheme to replace it with the old Statutory pension system if elected to power in the ensuing general elections to constitute the 17th Lok Sabha. Before going into the difficulties being faced by the employees governed under the New Contributory Pension Scheme which is at present christened as **“National Pension System (NPS)”**, I would like to invite your attention to the historical judgment delivered by the Hon^{ble} Supreme Court by a 5 Member Bench consisting of Hon^{ble} Chief Justice Y.B.Chandrachud. The Hon^{ble} Supreme

Court in this case has analyzed in detail the entire issue of Pension. The most important portion of the above historical judgment is reproduced below for your kind consideration please.

“From the discussions 3 things emerge that pension is neither a bounty nor a matter of grace depending upon the sweetwill of the employer and that it creates a vested rights subject to 1972 Rules which are statutory in character, because they are enacted in exercise of powers conferred by the proviso to Article 309 and Clause (5) of article 148 of the constitution, (ii) that Pension is not an ex-gratia payment but it is a payment for the past service rendered and (iii) it is a social welfare measure rendering socio economic justice to those who in the heyday of their life ceaselessly toiled for the employer on an assurance that in their old age they would not be left in the lurch.”

As you are aware Sir/Madam, that the new contributory pension scheme was introduced by the then NDA Government in 2004 initially through an executive fiat. Later, rather much later, a bill was introduced in the Parliament to enact the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority. After the promulgation of the Notification in 2004, many State Governments adopted the scheme to cover their employees, the only exception being the State of West Bengal presently. The ostentatious reason adduced at the time of promulgation of the Notification and thereafter at the time of the introduction of the PFRDA bill, was the ever increasing financial outflow on pension account, which makes fiscal deficit management difficult. Prima facie the said reason appeared to be true as the quantum of outflow on account of Pension had been on increase. But the fact that it had always been on rise was concealed as also the one that as a percentage to the GDP, the pension payment had been continuously dwindling over the years.

The employees organisations had been pointing out to the Government that the desired objective of containing pension outflow would not come about for the next four decades. When the probable drastic reduction in pension under the new scheme was raised by the Staff Side in the National Council, the

Government stated that under the new dispensation, employees will become entitled more annuity than the then existing entitlement of Pension, this assurance was given in writing by Government in the Standing Committee Meeting of the National Council (JCM) held under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Personnel) on 14th December, 2007 and went on to assure the Government's intervention if things turns out otherwise. It is also pertinent to mention here that the Government has exempted the Armed Force Personnel from the NPS and they continue to be in the old Pension Scheme. If the NPS is so attractive then why the Government has exempted them from NPS. This is a clear proof that the NPS is very much detrimental when compare to the old Pension Scheme.

The scheme is presently in vogue for the last 15 years. A few employees who were originally recruited as casual workers but got regularised later (retired before completion of the 33 or 35 years of service.) They were given a paltry amount as pension amounting to less than Rs, 2000. Had they been covered under the old Pension scheme, they would have certainly got more than 20,000 as pension. The new scheme has thus become ~~NO~~ pension scheme. The new scheme has thus created consternation of a very high order amongst the employees as they rightly feel that their hard earned savings are in effect compulsorily channelled to benefit the corporate entities. Since the Govt. will have to contribute equal amount or more (now 14%) the same would act in future as a real drain on the resources of the Government and will cause hardship in the form of increased tax liability. The anger and discontent of the employees have manifested itself in huge demonstrations and such other programmes and some of them have even resorted to strike action.

We are proud to mention that our principled opposition to the scheme right from the beginning, when it was introduced by the then NDA Government, has now been vindicated as it neither benefits the subscriber nor the Nation. Incidentally we may point out that in the wake of the 6th CPC, Government agreed to set up an expert committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Gayatri, at the Indian institute of social sciences to look into all aspects of the New Pension scheme. The committee has clearly indicated that the new scheme will draw more funds from the exchequer in the coming 40 years,

before any reduction in the outflow could be brought about.

We fervently feel that the new contributory scheme must be replaced by the old Pension Scheme under the CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972. If you will be able to indicate your intention to replace the present new contributory scheme with the old Statutory Pension structure, in your manifesto, it might help immensely to elicit the support of the Central Government employees and their family members to your party candidates in the ensuing general election.

We shall also be grateful for favour of a word in response to this communication from your end.

With kindest regards,

Your sincerely,

(Shiva Gopal Mishra)

Convener

Copy of OM.No.S.11011/06/2017-EHS dated 22/10/2018 from Ministry of Health & family Welfare, Department of Health & Family Welfare
Sub: Merger of Geodetic and Research Branch, Department of Science and Technology, Survey of India Dispensary at Raipur Road, Dehradun, with CGHS w.e.f. 03.04.2018- Reg.

In pursuance of recommendation of the 7th Central Pay Commission for convergence of medical facilities available with various departments of Central Government, the above mentioned Survey of India Dispensary presently functioning in Dehradun is hereby merged with the CGHS.

2. Geodetic & Research Branch, Department of Science & Technology, Survey of India Dispensary shall be rechristened as CGHS Wellness Center. Serving employees of Survey of India whose residence falls in CGHS covered area shall have one time option to avail medical facilities from their own dispensary of CGHS.

3. In so far as the existing facilities and manpower in position in this Dispensary is concerned, the



8. The procession taken by the AIBDPA comrades joining the dharna venue.



9. Com. K. Raghavendran G.S. AIPRPA addressing the dharna fast participants on 15.3.19 at Jantar Mantar.



10. A view of the dharna participants at the dharna fast programme at Jantar Mantar on 15.3.2019.

merger shall be effective as per the following terms and conditions:-

A. Serving employees and pensioners of Survey of India shall have to abide by the CGHS rules and guidelines to become a members of the Scheme. They shall have to pay the requisite contribution as per the prevailing rates prescribed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare/CGHS. Survey of India will take necessary action to inform their employees and pensioners in this regard.

B. All existing facilities and infrastructure like buildings, furniture and fixtures, equipment's etc. will be taken over by CGHS 'as is where is' basis. The Survey of India shall handover the possession of the Dispensary accommodation to the Department of Health and Family Welfare/CGHS at a token rent of Re. 1/- per annum.

C. All doctors of GDMO sub-cadre of CHS working in the Dispensary will be taken on roll of CGHS and they shall be placed under the administrative control of Department of Health and Family Welfare/CGHS for all purposes.

D. All employees (technical/non-technical staff) along with the work allocated and post they are currently holding in the Dispensary shall be taken over by CGHS. Their seniority and other condition of service in CGHS shall be governed by the relevant instructions and guidelines issued by DOPT from time to time.

E. All expenditure relating to this Dispensary including medicines, hospitalization, salaries and other allowances to the Survey of India dispensary employees and a result of merger of the dispensary shall be borne by CGHS form its own resources.

F. Local Committees shall be constituted with representatives from both CGHS and Survey of India to resolve all staffing and other local issues arising on account of the merger in consultations with nodal Ministries.

4. This issues with the approval of the Competent