KARNATAKA POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION (R.)

(Registered under the Karnataka Societies Regn. Act 1960_Regn. No. 1069/98-99)
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Agenda Items for the 33rd SCOVA meeting of SCOVA suggested by Karnataka Posts and Telecommunications Pensioners' Association, Bengaluru

1) Simultaneous issuance of orders on release of both DA and DR

While the order on revision of Dearness Allowance (DA) for the serving employees is being issued by DOE, MOF, almost on the very next working day after the Central cabinet approving the increase in the rate of DA, the order regarding increase in the rate of Dearness Relief (DR) for pensioners is being issued by DOPPW belatedly after a few days of issuance of the order on DA by DOE. For example: Order on revision of DA with effect from 1-7-2023 was issued by DOE on 20-10-2023 after its approval by the Central Cabinet on 18-10-2023. But the order on revision of DR was issued by DOPPW on 28-10-2023, 8 days after DOE issuing the order on DA. Delay in issue of order on DR causes much consternation among the pensioners and tends to make them believe that they are being discriminated. It is, therefore, requested that the issue regarding simultaneous issue of orders on increase of DA and DR may please be favourably considered which will go a long way in assuaging the feelings of pensioners.

2) CPENGRAMS

There is no column for furnishing the address of the pensioners' Association which has registered the grievance while there is a provision for entering address of the Pensioner. Therefore the offices which dispose the grievances are sending their replies intended for the pensioners association to the address of the pensioner. It is therefore necessary that a provision is made in the grievance registration form for entering the address of the grievance registering pensioners' association also.

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3) Pension Rules: Emoluments for computation of pension in respect of a government servant who is on deputation to a higher grade /level

A government servant was sent on deputation to officiate in a higher grade/post/level in another department of the government of India.
After serving for 4 years in the higher grade on deputation, the GS retired from service without reversion to his substantive post. The PAO concerned while fixing his pension on his retirement, considered the pay that **he would have drawn had he continued in his substantive post** (lower grade/post/pay scale) and did not take in to **account the pay actually drawn by him in the higher** grade/post/pay scale. This has resulted in fixation of his pension under 7th CPC at an amount lower than the amount to which he would have been entitled to had his pension been calculated with reference to the ***PAY ACTUALLY DRAWN BY HIM AT THE TIME OF HIS RETIREMENT*** . He had drawn pay in the higher grade/post/pay scale continuously for 4 years preceding his retirement without reversion to his substantive post.

> Rule 31 of CCS(Pension)Rules 2021 reads *" The expression emoluments means basic pay as defined in Rule 9(21)(a)(i) of the Fundamental Rules, 1922 which the Government Servant was receiving immediately before his retirement or on the date of his death …………"*

Rule 9(21) of the Fundamental Rules reads *" Pay means the amount drawn by a Government Servant as (a) the pay, other than special pay or pay granted in view of his personal qualifications, which has been sanctioned for a post held by him substantively or in an officiating capacity, or to which he is entitled by reason of his position in a cadre and…………….*

Rule 32 of CCS (Pension) Rules 2021 reads*"Average emoluments shall be determined with reference to the emoluments drawn by a Government savant during the last 10 months of his service "*

In view of the provisions of the relevant rules quoted above, it may kindly be examined whether the fixation of pension of the Government servant with reference to the emoluments drawn by him in his substantive post (pay not actually drawn) instead of the emoluments actually drawn by

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him in the officiating post before his retirement is in order or requires revision. It is requested that necessary instructions in this regard may please be issued to all concerned.

4) Fixed medical allowance- Stoppage of payment by Banks to Pensioners of IA&AD, Income Tax, and Excise &Customs etc.

Of late, many pension disbursing authorities (Banks) are reported to have stopped payment of FMA to some pensioners who were getting the allowance hitherto on the plea that payment of FMA has not been authorised in the PPOs.

While disposing a grievance registered with it, the CPAO has replied that as per the records available with CPAO, FMA to the pensioner concerned has not been authorised and therefore payment has been stopped. But, it is seen that in the PPO issued to such pensioners, it has been mentioned that "The retired officer opted for fixed medical allowance after retirement". After this fact being brought to the notice of the PAO concerned and the CPAO, FMA was restored only to some pensioners and payment has not yet been restored to many pensioners of some departments.

It is understood that stoppage of FMA was in compliance with an audit objection raised by CAG during the internal audit of the office of CPAO.

It seems that the instructions issued by the Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare vide its OM F.No. 4/34/2017-P&PW(D) Dated: 31-01-2018 have been lost sight of by the Pension Disbursing Authorities(PDAs) . The OM has authorised the PDAs to sanction FMA to pensioners after obtaining an undertaking along with the Form for availing Medical Facilities under central Government Health Scheme or Fixed Medical Allowance after retirement. The OM does not stipulate that PAO / CPAO must authorise payment of FMA. **The Pension Disbursing authorities have been authorised to commence payment of FMA after obtaining an application form with an undertaking in the proforma prescribed in the OM dated 31-1-2018.**

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In view of the instructions contained in OM dated 31-1-2028, stoppage of payment of FMA by the PDA/ PAO/CPAO for the reason stated above is not in order.

Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare is earnestly requested to reiterate its instructions on the subject and prevail upon the PDAs to continue to pay FMA to pensioners for whom they had stopped payment after obtaining the prescribed undertaking and application form.

5) Re-fixation of pension of Pre-2006 Pensioners at 50% of the emoluments (Last Pay drawn) instead of Average emoluments and payment of arrears for the period from 1-1-2006 to 31-12-2015

A) Pension of employees retiring/ retired on or after 1-1-2006 is computed at 50% of the emoluments (last pay drawn) or average emoluments whichever is beneficial to them. With the delinking of 33 years of qualifying service for grant of full pension w.e.f 1-1-2006, and amendment to Rule 49 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 (Rule 44 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021), employees retiring after a qualifying service of not less than 10 years are eligible for pension calculated at 50 % of emoluments (last pay drawn) or average emoluments whichever is more beneficial. The benefit of full pension for less than 33 years of service was extended to pre-2006 Pensioners also vide DoP&PW OM No. 38/37/ 08-P&PW (A) dated the 06th April, 2016, wherein it was stated that the revised consolidated pension of pre-2006 Pensioners shall not be lower than 50% of the minimum of the pay in the Pay Band and the Grade Pay (wherever applicable) corresponding to the pre revised Pay Scale as per fitment table annexed to Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure OM No. 1.11.2008-IC dated 30th August, 2008 without pro-rata reduction of pension even if the Pensioners had qualifying service of less than 33 years at the time of retirement.

B) In accordance with the provisions contained in Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare O M No.38/37/2016-P&PW (A) Dated, the 12th May, 2017,Pension of all Pre 2016 pensioners was revised w.e.f 1-1-2016 at 50% of their pay by notionally fixing their pay in the pay matrix recommended by the 7th CPC in the level corresponding to the pay in the pay scale/pay band and grade pay at which they retired/died.

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Therefore, from 1-1-2016, all pensioners are being paid pension at 50% of their pay or notional pay as the case may be, without any reduction in the quantum of pension.

But Pre-2006 pensioners whose pension was computed at 50% of their AVERAGE EMOLUMENTS were paid a lesser amount of pension during the period from 1-1-2006 to 31-12-2015 than the amount of pension that they would have been entitled to; if their pension had also been revised at 50 % of the last pay drawn or average emoluments whichever is more beneficial to them. (I.e. in cases where the last pay drawn was more than the average emoluments).

In order to correct the anomaly explained above and to extend the benefit of modifications to Pension Rules introduced from 1-1-2006 Viz. (a) delinking of 33 years of service for pension and (b) computation of pension at 50 % of the emoluments (last pay drawn) or average emoluments whichever is more beneficial, to all pre 2006 Pensioners on par with post 2006 Pensioners, it is requested that the pension of all pre-2006 Pensioners may be ordered to be re-fixed at 50 % of the emoluments (last pay drawn) or average emoluments whichever is more beneficial, irrespective of the number of years of service and arrears due to them for the period from 1-1-2006 to 31-12-2015 may be paid .

6) Restoration of Commuted portion of pension after 11 years.

Calculations regarding recovery of commuted portion of pension furnished below show that the entire commuted value of pension paid to the Pensioner is recovered in a period of 10.9 years along with the interest thereon calculated at 8% of the CVP.

Commutation value effective from 2-9-2008

i) Maximum limit for commutation of pension: 40 %

ii) Age of Retirement: 60 years / Age next birth day: 61 years

iii) Commutation factor: 8.194 (Basis: LIC(94-96) Ultimate Tables & @ 8 % interest)

Calculation of commuted value of pension on minimum pension

Minimum pension w.e.f.1-1-2016 : Rs.9,000

Commutation @ 40 % of 9000 : Rs.3,600 **(Continued Page -6)**

Commuted value of pension payable: 3600 x 8.194 x12 = Rs. 3,53,980. This amount is recovered in 15 years as per the existing Rules / ie. in 180 months
Amount recovered 3600 X 15 X 12 = 6,48,000
Interest recovered: 648000 – 353980 = 294020
Calculation of repayment of principal and interest thereon:
As per the method followed in calculation of interest on "interest bearing advances" sanctioned to serving employees, such as “House Building Advance” the amount of Principal is recovered first and the interest accrued thereon is recovered thereafter at the same rate at which the principal was recovered.
Commuted value paid (principal) :3,53,980
Rate of recovery: Rs.3600 p.m.(amount of each instalment of recovery)
The principal is recovered in 8.194 years : (8.194 years x 12 = 98.328 months/ instalments) 3600 x 8.194 x 12 = 3,53,980
Calculation of interest at 8 % on the principal of Rs.3,53,980 as per the formula: Formula for calculation of interest: Interest = n(n+1)/2 x y/12 x r/100:
Interest = 98.328 x 99.328 x 3600 x 8 divided by 2400 (2x12x100) =
Rs. 1,17,200
Period of recovery of interest at Rs. 3600 p.m. : 117200 / 3600 =32.555 months or 2.712 years
Total period of recovery of the commuted value of pension
Principal : 8.194 years
Interest : 2.712 years
Total : 10.906 years
It is seen from the calculations given above that the commuted value of pension along with interest thereon, calculated at 8%, is recovered in full in a period of 10.906 years, whereas as per the existing rules the recovery continues for 15 years. Thus, the recovery at the rate of Rs. 3600 p.m. continues for a further period of 4.094 years even after recovery of the Commuted value of pension in full along with interest. To be precise, a sum of Rs.1, 76,860 (3600 x 12 x 4.094) is recovered over and above the amount due to be recovered from the pensioner.

It is therefore requested that commuted portion of pension may be restored after 11 years from the date of retirement/ payment of CVP as the case may be.

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7) Grant of increment to the retiring employees on the date of their retirement, if the date of their increment follows their date of retirement ie. falls on the next date of their retirement - Amendment to the rules governing grant of increment & extension of the amended rule to pensioners as a one-time measure

The Hon'ble Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, in reply to question No.427 raised in the Parliament on12-12-2018 as to whether the government has issued orders regarding granting of annual increment to those employees who have retired on 30th June after completion of one year of service, in implementation of the Judicial orders on the issue , had stated in his answer that "as the judgment is in persona and contrary to the personnel policy of Government of India, the question of issuing a general order does not arise".

The views of the government expressed in the reply that grant of increment to apensioner is contrary to the personnel policy of the Government" may perhaps be because of the reason that the Rules governing grant of increment stipulate that the employee must be on duty on the date on which he earns an increment and if the employee is not on duty, the increment shall be granted from the date of resumption of duty. Therefore, if the date of increment of an employee falls on the next date of his retirement, the increment that would have been allowed to him but for his retirement is not granted for the reason that the employee, having retired from service, is not on duty on the date on which the increment would have been otherwise granted to him.

The provisions of the rules, as they stand now, have made such employees ineligible for increment even after rendering 365 days of service after earning the last increment. The Rules on grant of increment have undergone many changes and modifications have been made in the past on several occasions, which were to the advantage of the employees and the retiring employees as well.

To quote a few:

A. Regulation of increment from 1st of the month

(i) Effective from 1-11-1973 increment which was being allowed from the date of completion of qualifying service of one year, was ordered to be granted from the first of the month in which it would fall due vide GoI M.F.O.M. No.F.1(22)-EIII(A)/73 dated 27th May, 1974 .
(ii) For the purpose of regulation of increment from 1st of the month, it was clarified vide GI M.F.O M F.1(22)-E-III(A)75 dated 24th August 1974 and 15th November 1974 that in the case of initial appointment/ promotion accruing after 1-11-1973, increment shall be drawn before completion of the normal incremental period service of 12 months.

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B. Uniform date of increment on the recommendations of the VI CPC

Uniform date of annual increment Viz.1st July of every year was introduced w.e.f 1-1-2006 on the recommendations of the VI CPC and the first increment after fixation of pay on 1.1.2006 was granted from 1-7-2006 itself for those employees for whom the date of next increment was between 1-7-2006 & 1-1-2007 ie. without the requirement of completion of 12 months of service after earning the last increment.

C. Effect of non-qualifying service on earning increment

(i) Earlier to 1-11-1973, non-qualifying service even for a few days resulted in postponement of increment by the number of days of non-qualifying service. After1-11-1973 non-qualifying service of less than 30 days only did not adversely affect the date of increment since the increment would be drawn from the first of the month irrespective of the date on which it would fall during that month.

(ii) After implementation of 6th CPC recommendations, in further relaxation of the rules on regulation of increment, Rule 10 of CCS (Revised Pay) Rules, 2008 provides for grant of next increment on 1st July ignoring non-qualifying service for less than 6 months in a year. It was clarified vide G.I. Dept. of Per &Trg OM No.16/2/2009-Estt.(Pay I) dated 2nd July,2010 that "qualifying service of less than six months .... will not have the effect of postponing the increment".
With the above said clarification non- qualifying service for less than 6 months does not result in postponement of increment. Thus, in effect, an employee earns his annual increment after rendering a qualifying service of 6 months and above in a year.

D. As per the recommendations of the VII CPC, there are 2 dates for grant of increment Viz. 1st January and 1st July provided that the employee shall be entitled to only one annual increment.

It can thus be seen from the changes that have been made in the rules regarding grant/ regulation of increment furnished above that the government has from time to time relaxed the conditions for grant of increment and has passed several orders in modification of the rules for grant of increment which are advantageous & beneficial to the employees. After 6th CPC the condition of completion of 365 days of service for earning an increment has also been relaxed and an employee is entitled to earn his ANNUAL INCREMENT after completion of 6 months of qualifying service in a year.

The request of Post- 2006 pensioners who retired on 30th of June after rendering a qualifying service of one year from the date of earning the last increment for granting them the increment which would have occurred to them on 1st july, but for their retirement on 30th June, needs to be considered favourably keeping in view many relaxations that have been made earlier as narrated above and in tune with several modifications that have been made to the Rules thereon which were beneficial to the employees / pensioners.

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It is suggested that necessary amendment may please be introduced to the relevant rules to provide for grant of increment on the date of retirement of an employee if the employee had completed one year of qualifying service on that date from the date of accrual of his last increment in the pay scale which will satisfy the condition that the employee should be on duty on the date of earning an increment in a pay scale.

Decision to grant increment on the last day of the month (retirement on superannuation is on the last day of the month) will be analogous with the payment of pay and allowances on the last day of the month.

It is fervently requested that the above suggestion may please be accepted and necessary order may be issued at the earliest.

` Further, it is strongly urged that the provisions of the amended Rule may please be extended as a onetime measure to all pensioners who had retired after one year of service from the date of earning of their last increment which will resolve the long pending justified demand of pensioners which has the backing of some court orders also.

8) Fixation of notional pay for revision of pension under 7th CPC in terms of DOPPW OM dated 12-5-2017 with reference to the pay level of the post from which the pensioner had retired

DoP&PW OM NO.38/37/2016-P&PW(A) dated, 12th May 2017 issued in implementation of the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission envisages revision of pension/ family pension w.e.f.1-1-2016 of all Central civil pensioners/family pensioners, who retired/ died prior to 01.01.2016, by notionally fixing their pay in the pay matrix recommended by the 7th CPC in the level corresponding to the pay in the pay scale/pay band and grade pay at which they retired/died. Notional pay fixation is done under each intervening Pay Commission based on the Formula for revision of pay and on the pay fixation formulae approved by the Government and other relevant instructions on the subject in force at the relevant time. 50% of the notional pay shall be the revised pension and 30% of the notional pay shall be the revised family pension w.e.f. 1.1.2016.

Hundreds of Central Civil Posts were upgraded to higher pay scales on the recommendations of the successive Central Pay Commissions, highest number of posts upgraded being 669 in 5th CPC, listed in part-C of the First schedule of

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CCS (RP) Rules,1997 followed by 162 posts in 6th CPC indicated in part-C of the First schedule of CCS (RP) Rules,2008 and 47 posts in 7th CPC indicated in part-C of the First schedule of CCS (RP) Rules, 2016 apart from the posts indicated in parts -B of the 1st schedule of the respective Pay Rules.

Fixation of notional pay in the level of 7th CPC pay matrix corresponding to the last pay drawn by the retiree in the pay scale/pay band from which the pensioner had retired (in terms of instructions in para 4 of the OM dated 12-5-2017) has resulted in denial of extension of the benefits of up gradation of posts to the pensioners who had retired from the same posts but, before their up gradation to higher pay scales/pay bands/grade pay. The difference in the quantum of admissible revised pension computed with reference to the notional pay corresponding to the pay in the retiring pay scale and the notional pay in the level of the pay scale of the upgraded post is quite huge in some cases as brought in the illustration given below.

It is, therefore, requested that the notional pay under 7th CPC for revision of pension/family pension of pre-2016 pensioners may be fixed with reference to the notional pay that the pensioner would have drawn had he/ she continued in the post (after its upgradation) from which he/ she had retired instead of fixing the notional pay in the level corresponding to the pay in the pay scale/pay band and grade pay at which they retired/died, thereby extending the benefit of up gradation of posts to past pensioners also.

Illustration

	4th CPC	5th CPC		6th CPC		7th CPC	
Post	Retiring Pay Scale	Corresponding Pay Scale	UP graded Pay Scale	Corresponding Pay Band	Upgraded Pay Band	Corresponding Pay Level	Upgraded Pay level
Postal Assistant (Post upgraded in 5thCPC)	975-1660 (S-6)	3200-4900 (S-6)	4000-100-6000 (S-7)	PB-1 Grade Pay Rs.2000 (S-6)	PB-1 Grade Pay Rs.2400 (S-7)	Level-3	Level-4
Last Pay	1300	4050	4100	9540	10030	25200	25500

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9) Revision of Pay Scales of Inspectors and Superintendents of Central Board of Indirect Tax and Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance from 01.01.1996 instead of from 21.04.2004

In accordance with the recommendations of the 5th Central Pay Commission, the pay scales of Inspectors was revised from Rs.5500-175-9000 to Rs.6500-200-10500 and that of the Superintendents from Rs.6500-200-10500 to Rs.7500-250-12000 w.e.f 21.04.2004 vide Ministry of Finance , Department of Expenditure (Implementation Cell)O.M. F.No. 6/37/98-IC dated 21.04.2004. Revision of pay scales of the above posts from 21.04.2004 instead of from 01.01.1996, the date of implementation of 5th CPC recommendations, has resulted in great injustice to the officials who had worked in the upgraded posts between 01.01.1996 and 20.04.2004 adversely affecting also the pension of those officials who retired before 21.04.2004.

It is understood that in Ministry of Railways certain posts which were initially granted the pay scale of Rs. 5500-175-9000 with effect from 01.01.1996 even though were subsequently upgraded to the pay scale of Rs. 6500-200-10500 from a later date, the orders regarding upgradation were implemented with prospective effect from 01.01.1996, the date from which 5th CPC recommendations were implemented.

To quote a judicial order in this regard, the Honourable Principal bench , CAT , New Delhi ,in OA No.763 of 2015 in its order dated 03.02.2022 had directed the respondent Department of Posts to grant the upgraded pay scale of Rs.6500-200-10500 to the applicant Section officers from 01-01-1996 instead of from 19.02.2003 as granted earlier.

It is strongly urged that the pay scales of Inspectors and Superintendents of Central Board of Indirect Tax and Customs, which were upgraded w.e.f 21.04.2004 may please be caused to be upgraded from 01.01.1996 ie., the date of implementation of 5th CPC report since it was because of the recommendations of the Pay Commissions those posts were upgraded to higher pay scales which will go a long way in assuaging the strong feelings of the pensioners who retired between 01.01.1996 and 21.04.2004 that they were discriminated against and were not treated at a par with those employees who worked in the same posts .

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10) SAMPANN: Non-indication of Dearness Relief (DR) paid on Age related Additional Pension in the SMS on pension credit received by DoT Pensioners – SAMPANN

Dearness Relief (DR) paid to DoT Pensioners on their age-related additional pension is not being included in the total of DR paid for the month and only the DR admissible/paid on the basic pension is being indicated in the SMS on pension credit being received by DoT Pensioners creating confusion about the actual amount of DR admissible and paid.

Hence it is suggested that the DR admissible on Additional Pension may be indicated separately apart from DR on basic pension by introduction of a new head "**D R on Additional Pension** "in the SMS.

It is also felt that the item "**pensions after commutation** "is not at all necessary in the SMS especially when the commutation has already been restored. It may please be examined whether this particular item can be removed in the text of the SMS wherever it is not required.

A SMS received by a DoT pensioner is reproduced below for the sake of clarity

<u>COPY OF THE SMS</u>

Dear Sir/Madam, In respect of your PPO number ending in 13131 , for the month of SEP , 2023 Gross pension -- 70333 , Basic pension -- 38100 , Pension after Commutation -- 38100 , Add -- Dearness relief -- 16002 , Add -- FMA -- 0 , Add -- Additional Pension -- 11430 , Add -- Arrears -- NIL , Less -- Income Tax deducted including cess -- 3640 , Less -- Recovery -- 0 ,
Net pension -- 66693 has been credited in your S/B account ending in xxxxxxxxxxx .

It may be seen from the particulars in the message above that DR of Rs.16002 indicated therein is the product of 42% of the **basic pension of Rs.38100 only,** whereas the Gross pension of Rs. 70333 includes the basic pension and DR calculated at 42% **of the sum of basic pension of Rs.38100 and the age-related additional pension of Rs.11430.**

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11) CGHS : One time option to CGHS Beneficiaries to choose their ward entitlement based on their NOTIONAL PAY in 7th CPC Pay Matrix

Prior to revision of the rates of subscription and entitlement of wards under CGHS with effect from 1st June 2009 vide MoH&FWO.M.No. S-11011/2/2008-CGHS(P) dated 20.5.2009***, Pensioners had an option to choose for payment of CGHS Contribution / ward entitlement based either on last pay drawn or their pension.*** Pensioners who had opted for payment of Contribution based on their pension got lower entitlement of ward than the entitlement based on their last basic pay. Consequent upon implementation of the recommendations of 7th CPC, the rate of CGHS Contribution was revised to be based on the levels in the Pay matrix and the ward entitlement on the corresponding basic pay in 7th CPC. The revised rates were introduced w.e.f 1.1.2017. Pensioners who are entitled for higher ward entitlement based on their notional Pay in 7th CPC Pay Matrix continue to be eligible for lower ward entitlement since they had opted for determination of their entitlement based on their pension at the time of their retirement/admission to CGHS.

It is seen that even in cases where pensioners had opted for determination of their CGHS contribution and ward entitlement on the basis of **last pay**, they would now be entitled for higher wards Viz: Semi-private and Private ward, re-determined with reference to their notional pay under the 7th CPC.

A large number of pensioners who have now become entitled to semi-private or private wards in consideration of their NOTIONAL PAY under the VII CPC Pay Matrix, have been denied their actual entitlement for higher ward for treatment in hospitals since the CGHS Cards issued to them indicate “General Ward” for those who are now entitled for semi-private ward and either General ward or Semi-private ward for those who are now entitled for private ward. Since the CGHS Cards were issued to them at the time of their retirement when the pay scales were low under the previous pay commissions and in respect of some the ward entitlement was determined on pension at their option this anomaly has arisen and needs to be corrected to render justice to such pensioners.

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Examples given below will bring home the issue more explicitly.

Example 1: (opted for CGHS contribution and ward entitlemt on last pay)

i)Date of retirement: 30-04-2002
ii)Pay Scale from which retired: Rs.6500-200-10500 (GRADE :S-12)
iii)Last pay drawn: Rs.7500
iv)Ward entitlement as per the entitlements before 31-3-2004: ***GENERAL WARD***
v)Notional Pay under VII CPC in level- 7 corresponding to Rs.7500: **Rs.49,000**
vi)Ward Entitlement w.e.f.1-1-2017 as per OM No. S.11011/11/2016 CGHS (P)/EHS, Dated the 9th January, 2017of Ministry of Health and F W, as modified vide DOPPW OM No. S11011/11/2016 CGHS (P) dated 28-10-2022 and clarification issued vide OM No. S11011/11/2016 CGHS (P) dated 22-11 -2022 **SEMI-PRIVATE**

Example 2: (opted for CGHS contribution and ward entitlement **on PENSION**

i)Date of retirement: 31-07-1995
ii)Pay Scale from which retired: Rs.3700-125-4700-150-5000 (GRADE:S-21)
iii)Last pay drawn: Rs.5000
iv)**Pension: Rs.2500**
v)Ward entitlement as per the entitlements before 31-3-2004: **GENERAL WARD**
vi)Notional Pay under VII CPC in level- 12 corresponding to Rs.5000: **Rs.86,100**
vii)*Ward Entitlement w.e.f.1-1-2017 as per OM No. S.11011/11/2016 CGHS (P)/EHS Dated the 9th January, 2017of Ministry of Health and F W,* as modified vide OM No.S11011/11/2016 CGHS (P) dated 28-10-2022 and clarification issued vide OM No. S11011/11/2016 CGHS (P) dated 22-11 2022*:* **PRIVATE**

It is, therefore, requested that the issue may please be pursued with the Health Ministry (CGHS) in the 33rd meeting of SCOVA and CGHS may please be very strongly urged to allow onetime option to Pensioners to opt for re-determination of their ward entitlement based on their notional pay in 7th CPC Pay Matrix, which would make them eligible for higher wards in Private Hospitals empanelled under CGHS and settle their long pending highly justified demand.

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12. CGHS Issues which call for immediate attention and remedial actions

Three most daunting issues being faced by the CGHS beneficiaries

1. Shortage of Doctors, Specialists and Para-Medical Staff.
2. Not opening of new CGHS Wellness Centres despite justification.
3. Non Revision of CGHS rates since a decade

Brief about each of the 3 items mentioned above .

1. Shortage of Doctors, Specialists and Para-Medical Staff

The Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) has about 14 lakh primary card holders & 47 lakh beneficiaries. Medical treatment for these CGHS beneficiaries is provided through 448 wellness centres in the country spread over 78 cities

In 2002, the sanctioned strength of posts of CGHS General Duty Medical Officers (GDMO) and Specialists doctors in the country was 1994 which included 1516 posts of GDMO. The existing strength of GDMO & Specialists is 1504. Hence there are now 490 vacant posts of doctors.

On any given day, the number of doctors on duty will be around 1100 only. A few Doctors are posted for administrative work in the offices of the Additional Directors. In a Wellness Centre with a sanctioned strength of 4 doctors, there will usually be only 2 doctors on duty. This causes heavy work load to Doctors on duty as they will have to examine about 70 to 80 patients a day, which, needless to mention, hampers providing quality medical treatment to beneficiaries.

It is the CGHS beneficiaries that suffer the most because of shortage of doctors. Apart from depriving the beneficiaries of quality medical treatment since the doctors are forced to rush through examination of the patients, they are made to wait for hours for consultation with the doctors and again at the Pharmacy to collect the prescribed medicines. Hence there is an urgent need for augmentation of the strength of Doctors and Specialists and immediate filling up of all the existing vacancies.

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Further, shortage of pharmacists, nursing and support staff is acute and it calls for immediate action for ensuring filling up of all vacant posts in all cadres.

2. Opening of new CGHS Wellness Centres.

For opening of a new CGHS WC in an existing CGHS city, there has to be a minimum of 2000 Card holders (serving employees of Central Government and Central Civil Pensioners). For extension of CGHS facility to a new city there has to be a minimum of 6000 Card holders.

The existing CGHS wellness centres in major metropolitan cities are catering to more number of beneficiaries than the number of beneficiaries as per the norms. The daily footfall of beneficiaries at the WCs is so huge that it has become unmanageable with the limited number of Doctors available in the WCs which results in a long wait for the beneficiaries for consultation with the doctors. And many beneficiaries get disappointed when they will have to return home without getting a chance to meet the Doctor. Space constraint in the Wellness Centres is yet another travail that the beneficiaries face .

Many cities in our country have every justification for opening of CGHS WCs as per the prescribed norms and the existing CGHS cities; especially the metropolitan cities like Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad with concentration of a large number of Central Govt employees and pensioners qualify for having more number of CGHS wellness centres. Proposals for opening of new WCs have been submitted with relevant data by the Additional Directors.

It is, therefore, requested that a thorough review of all the proposals for opening of new WCs received by the Health Ministry may please be made and necessary sanction issued at the earliest.

The following proposals submitted by the AD,CGHS, Bangalore for opening of WCs in Karnataka are pending consideration

a)Opening of a W C at Mangaluru, South Karnataka

b)Opening of a full-fledged W C at Hubballi

c)Opening of one WC in each of the 4 directions of Bengaluru City on a priority basis. There is justification for opening at least 7 new WCs in the City as per norms.

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3. Non Revision of CGHS rates since a decade

The CGHS rates were last revised in 2014. There are about 1900 items in CGHS rate list. Rates of a few items only have been revised recently. They are: Consultation charges, Room Rent /Ward charges, ICU charges, 36 Radiological tests etc.

Non-revision of rates for nearly a decade has resulted in many empanelled Private Hospitals seeking de-empanelment. Therefore, there is an urgent need to revise the rate of all procedures/ tests /investigations etc., which are commensurate with the increase in the market prices of medicines, medical equipment and treatment procedures over the past several years. Revision of rates will not only encourage more number of private hospitals to seek empanelment but also is likely to motivate some of the private hospitals which had withdrawn from CGHS to come back to its fold. If there were to be any further delay in revision of CGHS rates, there is every probability of some more hospitals seeking removal of their names from the list of empanelled hospitals, which is sure to cause untold miseries to CGHS beneficiaries. They will also be put to great financial hardship.

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