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PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION (R)

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(FORMERLY RMS PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION)

Registered as "a Wholly Charitable Trust" U/S. 12A of I.T. Act 1961

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Report on the 25th meeting of the Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA) held on 5th September, 2014

The 25th meeting of the Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA) organized by Government of India, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, was held on 5th September, 2014 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State, (Personnel & Public Grievances) at Committee Room -A, Vigyan Bhavan Annex, New Delhi. The meeting, which commenced at 11-15 a.m., was well attended by almost all of the Official Representatives and most of the Non-official Members of SCOVA. The new Secretary, DoP & PW, Sri. Ravi Shanker, greeted all the Representatives. Before commencement of proceedings, one minute silence was observed in honour of Sri.Umaraomal Purohit, Secretary, (Staff Side) JCM, who expired recently.

2. Smt. Vandana Sharma, Joint Secretary, DoP & PW, in her welcome address, greeted the Hon'ble Minister and the Secretary who were attending the SCOVA meeting for the first time.

By- **K.B.Krishna Rao**, Secretary,
who represented K P&T PA

She stated that SCOVA has provided a forum for the pensioners' Associations to bring to the notice of the Government their views on several issues concerning pensioners and the Associations have been playing a useful role. Speaking on the initiatives taken by the DoP & PW in streamlining the pension procedure, she stated that reduction of time frame fixed for sanction of pension and online pension sanction and tracking system "Bhavishya" introduced in several Departments have proved to be useful to pensioners. She requested the Pensioners' Associations to give feedback on the changes introduced so that suitable steps could be taken by DoP&PW in the matter. She stated further that some of the issues which could not be included in the Agenda have been taken up with the Departments concerned. She hoped that the discussions in the meeting would be meaningful and useful.

3. Sri. Shiva Gopal Sharma, Secretary, (Staff Side) JCM, who was also attending the SCOVA meeting for the first time, requested the Hon'ble Minister to have a feel of the House before commencement of the discussions on Agenda Items, for which the Minister readily agreed. Sri. Sharma, stated that while SCOVA functions at National level, participation of pensioners at grass root level has not been considered. He opined that implementation of the policies evolved is a problem at lower levels. He wanted that Pensioners' Associations should have a say while finalising the Agenda Items for the meeting, and if there was a need, the meeting could be held on Sundays to allow more time for discussions. He further said that the views expressed by the non-official members do not find a place in the minutes circulated. He pointed out that while several Departments have identified one day in a week to meet pensioners in person to resolve their grievances, Railways have identified only one day in a year Viz. 15th December and requested the Minister to take up the matter with the Railway Ministry. Referring to the implementation of court judgements, Sri.Sharma said that the orders should be made applicable to all similarly placed persons instead of forcing them to approach courts. Col. Handa, representing Disabled War Veterans (India), said that many Central Govt. pensioners are not aware of the grievance redressal mechanism available through DoP & PW. Sri.Y.N.Sastry, President, AIRRF, said that he wanted to place on record the invaluable contributions of the former Minister, Sri.V.Narayana Swamy and the former Secretary, Sri.Sanjay Kothari in introducing several pensioner friendly measures. Sri S.C.Maheswari. G S, Bharat Pensioners Samaj, congratulated the DoP & PW for regularly uploading its OMs in Pensioners' Portal and said that the same is not the case with Ministry of Railways where its website is not regularly updated. He wanted that the grievance redressal mechanism should be further strengthened. Sri. Balasubramanyam of AIFPA, Chennai requested for supply of new computers.

4. The Hon'ble Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh, in his address, stated that he also comes from 'Services' and he is aware of the difficulties experienced by all the pensioners including the Defence pensioners. He said that he has noted

the observations made by the Elders and agrees that more time should be allowed for discussions and should not mind working on Sundays. He said that the Prime Minister also wants all of them to work hard and he thanked the staff for working for long hours, which has helped in clearance of a good number of pending files. Speaking on SCOVA, the Minister said that when it was established 28 years ago, the number of pensioners was less but, now the situation has changed and number of pensioners is more than serving employees, life span has increased and problems have also increased and therefore there is every need for further strengthening of the grievance redressal mechanism. He said that the DoP & PW, in spite of several constraints, has been working hard in the cause of pensioner community. He suggested that a small body including pensioner Representatives could be constituted to function as a forum in solving the problems of pensioners, which can meet as frequently as required to ensure speedy resolution of complaints. He said that he agreed with the suggestion that "grievances should not be closed but settled" and said that the Government is committed to bring about a change in the Administration and its functioning would be transparent. Giving details of the measures that the Government intends to take in the days to come, he stated that they would like to be a part of the large social change that is taking place in the country. Dr. Singh thanked all the Representatives for giving many valuable suggestions in improving the functions of SCOVA.

5. After the address by the Minister, Action Taken Report on the decisions taken in the 24th meeting of SCOVA held on 5-2-2014 was taken up. Department/Ministry-wise review of the Status of issue of revised PPOs to Pre-2006 pensioners was taken up and the Official Representatives of the Ministry/ Departments concerned furnished the latest position of progress made by the Ministries of Defence, Railways, and Communications received the appreciation of the Representatives.

The Representative of AICGPA, Pune pointed out that in Maharashtra Postal Circle, revised PPOs have not yet been issued. Sri K.B.Krishna Rao, Secretary, Karnataka P&T Pensioners' Association intervened to say that in

Karnataka Circle, issue of revised PPOs is almost complete both in DoT and DoP.

5.1. On holding of Pension Adalats, several Pensioners' Associations complained that they are not being held regularly and the minutes are not given to the concerned Associations. Sri. K.B.Krishna Rao Secretary K P&T PA stated that in Karnataka, the Departments of Income Tax, Central excise, and Survey of India are not holding Pension Adalats.

5.2. Other issues discussed under ATR included opening of a new CGHS W.C. at Panchakula, Health Insurance Scheme for Pensioners living in non-CGHS areas, Dedicated day for Pensioners, and Grant of TA to non-official members attending SCOVA meetings. Sri. K.B.Krishna Rao Secretary, K P&T PA stated that the issue of grant of Air Fare to non-official members, when the journey performed is 1000 k.m. and above, was raised by K P&T PA in the 23rd meeting of SCOVA and he profusely thanked the DoP & PW and DoE, MoF for considering their request and for issuing necessary Order.

5.3. On the two issues concerning BSNL Pensioners, when the Official Representative of DoT informed that BSNL is collecting the

information sought for by DoP & PW on anomaly in fixation of pay of BSNL employees who retired within 10 months of its formation, the Secretary, DoP & PW said that the issue will be resolved in a joint meeting between DoT & DoP & PW. Regarding merger of 78.2 % of IDA with basic pension, the DoP & PW informed that they do not have any objection to the proposal. The Official Representative of DoE, MoF informed that they would send their comments on this issue within one week.

6. Out of 6 fresh items taken up for discussion, one item given by Karnataka P&T Pensioners' Association regarding extension of CGHS facilities to BSNL Pensioners, the Official Representative of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare informed that necessary Order has been issued on 9-1-2014 extending CGHS facilities to BSNL Pensioners.

7. Secretary, DoP & PW summing up the discussions stated that he values the suggestions made by the Pensioners' Associations on various issues and every endeavour will be made to solve the problems by holding meetings with the Departments concerned at Joint Secretary level. The meeting ended at 2 p.m.

Newly Enrolled

Name (Smt./Sri)	Designation & Office in which last worked	Type & No.
1 V.Nagaraj	Sr.Section Engineer, Mechanical, Rail wheel factory	ALM 2200
2 S.C.Bhavi	Head Sorting Assistant(BCR), SRO RMS HB Division, Belgaum	LM 2201
3 P.Sundara Murthy	Sub Postmaster, Bommanakatte, Shimoga	LM 2202
4 M.N.Nagabhushana	Foreman Group B(Gaz), Controllarate of Quality Assurance Electronics, Bg.	ALM 2203
5 V.G.Shettigar	BCR Sortiing Assistant, SRO RMS Q Division, M'lore	LM 2204
6 H.N.Rama Reddy	Sub Postmaster, Burudagunte	LM 2205
7 M.Elangovan	LSG Supervisor, B'City RMS, Bangalore	LM 2206

LM: Life Member

ALM: Associate Life Member

Another Affiliate to CCCGPA, Karnataka

Central Silk Board Pensioners' Association (R), functioning from No.535, 2nd 'A' Main, 16th 'A' Cross, Sector-6, H S R Layout, Bangalore-560102 has been granted affiliation to CCCGPA, Karnataka, thereby raising the number of Affiliates to 22

Action Taken Report on the decision of the 24th meeting of Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA) held on 5.2.2014.

Issue raised in 24th SCOVA meeting

1. Sl.No. 1 of ATR

Status of issue of revised PPOs to pre-2006 pensioners.

Follow up Action

CPAO

As on 12.8.2014, 40,275 cases of Civil Ministries/Departments are pending for revision

Minis/ Depts	Pre 1990	Pre 2006	Total
Civil Min/ Deptts	28,429	11,846	40,275

Meetings are being held at level of CGA, Addl.CGA, Chief Controller (Pensions) with Pr. CCAs/CCAs/CAs for early disposal of remaining cases.

All Ministries/Departments have been directed by Controller General of Accounts (CGA) to finalise these cases by taking up matter with the concerned Head of Department, banks and by approaching to pensioners where documents/files in respect of pensioners/family pensioners are not available with concerned PAOs.

Ministry of Railways

Current status of revised PPOs to pre-2006 pensioners is as under:

Total Pensioners	PPOs revised	PPOs yet to be revised
10,15,536	9,88,846	26,690

The outstanding cases are very old and hard core and are pending for want of office records, updated details of pensioners etc. However, efforts are being made to get these details from respective pension disbursing authorities to revise the same.

Department of Posts

Approximately 99.81% PPOs of pre-2006 have been revised.

Total PPOs	PPOs revised	PPOs yet to be revised
1,70,426	1,70,098	328

Department of Telecommunications

Status of revised PPOs of pre-2006 pensioners as on 31.7.2014 is as under:

Total PPOs	PPOs revised	PPOs yet to be revised
53,126	45,350	7,776

CGDA (Ministry of Defence)

The figure of 18.5 lakh pre-2006 pensiners was based on figures used by Pr. CDA(Pension) Allahabad for budgetary prupose. Considering wastage @ 2.5% of pre-2006 pensioners/family pensioners every year (due to death), the number of PPOs required to be issued has been reassessed at 16.71 lakh. The status of revised PPOs till 31.8.2014 is as under:

Category	PPOs revised	PPOs yet to be revised
Defence pensioners	14.11 lakh	85,000
Defence Civilian Pensioners	2.11 lakh	
Total	16.22 lakh	

Department of Ex-Servicemen

In case of Pension Adalat in North East Region is concerned, these have already been held periodically as under:

- (a) Jorhat (Assam): 23rd & 24th Dec, 2010
- (b) Missamari (Assam): 12th & 13th Nov, 2013 and in
- (c) Shillong (Meghalaya): proposed to be held in Oct, 2014

2. S.No. 2 of ATR:-

New dispensary for Panchkula

DoP & PW

The matter was taken up by the then MoS (PP) with the then Health Minister vide DO letter dated 12.2.2014. In addition, JS(P) wrote a DO

letter dated 24.6.2014 in the matter requesting for the present status of the proposals.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

The matter has been examined in the Ministry. At present there is no proposal under consideration to open the CGHS Wellness Centre at Panchkula.

3. (23.4) of ATR

Broad Banding of Disability Element for pre-1996 cases.

D/o Ex-Servicemen Welfare

The proposal is still pending and is being pursued vigorously with Department of expenditure and their concurrence is still awaited.

D/o Expenditure

D/o expenditure in June 2014 has stated that matter is under consideration

4 (24.1) Health Insurance Scheme for pensioners including those residing at non-CGHS areas

DoP& PW

We have requested Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to give the present status of the proposal

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

The comments from certain Ministries/ Departments have been received while it is awaited from some other Departments.

5. (24.2) Dedicated day for pensioners

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

CGHS has allotted a time slot every week from 11 am to 1 pm on Wednesday, in the office of Addl. Director/Jt. Director of respective CGHS zones/cities to meet and redress grievances of CGHS beneficiaries. Claim Adalats are also held periodically.

Department of Financial Services

The matter was taken up with Indian Banks Association (IBA). As per IBA, present system in banks permits any pensioner to meet officials in branches on all working days. So there is no need to allot a particular day. Therefore, it is decided not to fix any stipulated day for such meetings.

Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare

The office of PCDA(P) Allahabad is nodal office for resolving individual cases of defence

pensioners. CGDA has informed that a dedicated reception Centre is functioning at the PCDA(P), Allahabad where a pensioner can visit on any of the working day and get his/her grievances resolved.

However, it may not be possible for the Department to fix a day and time in a week to meet the pensioners as entry in the building premises is restricted and the fact that grievances of pensioners are redressed by the PSAs such as PCDA(P), Allahabad, PCDA(N), Mumbai and CDA(AF), Delhi to the extent they pertain to incorrect revision of pension etc.

However, Secretary/Jt. Secretary of the Department has been meeting the representatives of the ex-servicemen's associations quite frequently to hear their grievances and to redress the same.

Department of Telecom

A time slot of 3 pm to 5 pm on every Wednesday in the office of DDG (Estt) and DDG (Accounts) has been finalised to meet the pensioners.

Department of Expenditures

Monday of every week has been fixed for meeting the pensioners.

Department of Personnel and Training

A time slot of 10 am to 11 am on every Friday in the office of Director (Admn) has been fixed for the redressal of pension grievances.

Department of Posts

Every Wednesday, between 3 pm to 4 pm in the office of Sr. Ao/PEA in Dak Bhawan, New Delhi and in the office of Accounts Officer/pension in all the Postal Accounts Offices has been fixed to answer the issues raised by the pensioners pending in Postal Accounts Offices.

Unsettled grievance at Postal Accounts Offices level within a reasonable limit, may be entertained in the Office of Postal Directorate during indicated day and time.

Ministry of Railways

15th December every year has been decided as "Day for Pensioners"

6 (24.3) Special Family Pension for the Widows of Disabled War Veterans

Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare

The matter had been considered in consultation with the Department of Expenditure, Office of CGDA and Ministry of Defence (Fin) and it has not been found possible to agree to the proposal.

7. (24.5) *Grant of T.A. to Non-official Members attending the SCOVA meetings permission to perform journey by air and grant of actual expenses, when the journey performed is above 1,000 km.*

DoP&PW and Department of Expenditures

Order in this regard had been issued vide DoP & PW's F.No. 42/11/2014-P&PW(G) dated 19.5.2014.

8. (iii) *Sl.No. 2 of Ann-A:*

(13) *The orders of Ministry of Health reiterating that all the pensioners are at liberty to opt themselves with any of the nearest CGHS hospital/dispensary may be widely circulated. Arbitrary orders dated 1.8.1996 and 1.9.1996 issued by Ministry of Health and Director of CGHS may be withdrawn and the benefit of CGHS facilities be allowed to the pensioners of Department of Post and Department of Telecom*

16(1) Medical facilities for existing P&T pensioners

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

In respect of point (13) and 16(1)

The matter is sub-judice.

9. *Sl.No. 4 of Ann-A*

Anomaly in fixation of pension to DoT employees absorbed in BSNL, who retired between 1.10.2000 and 31.7.2001.

DoP & PW

A proposal received from Department of Telecom was examined and some further information/clarifications were sought from the Department of Telecom vide ID note dtd. 28.2.2014 and reminders dated 6.6.2014 and 23.6.2014.

Department of Telecom

The information is being collected from BSNL Corporate Office/MTNL. A reminder dated 20.8.2014 was also issued to BSNL/MTNL.

As soon as reply is received from them, the proposal will be sent again to DoP&PW for

final decision.

10 Sl.No. 5 of Ann-A Pensioners:-

Merger of 78.2% IDA with basic pension benefit to the absorbed BSNL

DoP & PW

DoP & PW has already communicated it's 'No Objection' to the proposal subject to the approval of Department of Expenditure. DoP & PW requested Department of Telecom to give the present status of the proposal vide letter dated 20.6.2014.

Department of Telecom

Department of Expenditure had sought some more information/clarifications. Requisite information/clarifications were furnished to Department of Expenditure on 11.7.2014. The decision of Deptt. of Expenditure is awaited.

11 (23.2) or Sl. No. 6 of Ann-A

Extension of benefit of upgraded Grade Pay to pre-2006 retirees of S-12 grade.

DoPPW and Department of Expenditure

Ministry of Finance clarified that the scale of Rs 6500-10500 has been upgraded to the scale of Rs. 7450-11,500 and after revision in the Pay Band in PB-2 with grade pay of Rs. 4600. Therefore, in terms of OM dated 11.5.2011 the pre-2006 pensioners who held the pre-revised scale of Rs 6500-10,500 at the time of their retirement are not entitled for stepping up of their pension and family pension with reference to the revised grade pay of Rs. 4600/-

Karnataka High Court vide its order dtd. 6.3.2014 directed that the order dtd. 8.3.2013 of CAT in OA No. 2321/12 may be complied with in the event of the SLP No 36148-50/13 were to be dismissed and if the SLP were not to be allowed, the order dtd 8.3.2013 of CAT stands rejected. In the order dtd 8.3.2013 in OA No. 253/12, CAT Bangalore Bench reproduced the operative part of the order dtd 1.11.2011 if CAT Pr. Bench in OA No 655/2010 and directed the respondents to refix the pension. Apparently the direction was for re-fixation of pension in terms of order dtd 1.11.2011 of CAT, Pr. Bench and there seems to be no direction to allow the benefit of Grade Pay of Rs 4600/-

12 (23.7) or Sl.No. 8 of Ann-A

*Extension of benefit of OM dt. 28.12.013
w.e.f. 1.1.2006 instead of 24.9.2012*

DoPPW

Four OAs were decided by a common Order dated 1.11.2011 of CAT, New Delhi, In OA No 655/2010 Curative petition has been dismissed by Hon'ble Supreme Court. In compliance to Order dtd 15.5.2014 of CAT, Pr. Bench, New Delhi action is being taken to

implement the CAT order dtd 1.11.2011 in respect of petitioner in OA No. 655/2010 only.

Law Ministry has advised to await the outcome of SLP No. 655/2010 before deciding in respect of other pre-2006 pensioners.

Next hearing in SLP No. 36148-50/2013 is on 16.9.2014.*

* * *

* *Editor's Note: Case adjourned to 15.10.2014*

Issue of medicines/reimbursement of expenditure on investigations/treatment procedures/implants and other medical devices under CGHS regarding.

(O.M. No. 2-2/2014/CGHS HQ/PPT/CGHS(P) dated 25.8.2014 of MoH & FW)

With reference to the above mentioned subject the undersigned is directed to state that this Ministry has examined the matter in detail and with a view to streamline the procedures regarding issue of medicines, reimbursement of expenditure on investigations, treatment procedures, implants and medical devices and with a view to plug the loopholes in the system, it has now been decided that:

- a) CGHS shall supply/indent only those medicines, which are included in the CGHS formulary, except for para (b) below. However, for medicines prescribed outside formulary, medicines with identical formulations and/or similar therapeutic effect may be supplied from CGHS formulary against such medicines. CGHS formulary containing 1447 generic and 622 branded medicines is available on CGHS website at <http://msotransparent.nic.in/cghsnew/index.asp>
- b) Anti Cancer and other similar medicines are however supplied on a case to case basis. Only the medicines approved by DCGI for use in India shall be supplied. In case an Indian version is available, which is cheaper than the imported medicine, only the Indian medicine shall be supplied even if an imported medicine has been prescribed.
- c) Medicines shall be supplied for a maximum period of one month.
- d) In case of CGHS beneficiaries going abroad, issue of medicines shall be restricted for a maximum period of three months.

- e) CGHS shall hereinafter allow only the listed investigations/treatment procedures for which there are prescribed CGHS rates, to be undertaken in CGHS empanelled diagnostic centres and hospitals.
- f) Similarly, only listed implants/medical devices with a CGHS prescribed ceiling rate shall be permitted for treatment/reimbursement under CGHS.
- g) In those cases where any unlisted investigation /treatment procedure is undertaken, the reimbursement shall be limited to the rate of nearest similar investigation/treatment procedure under CGHS. Addl. Director of the city/zone shall take a decision based on justification in such cases, in consultation with experts in the field, if necessary.
- h) In those cases where any unlisted implant/device is installed, reimbursement shall be limited to the CGHS rate of nearest similar implant/device. Addl. Director of the city/zone shall take a decision based on justification in such cases in consultation with experts in the field, if necessary.
- i) Registration of Mobile number with CGHS has been made compulsory as a guard against misuse of CGHS Card.
- j) In order to provide a mechanism to update the investigations/treatment procedures/implants, etc., as an ongoing process, a Technical Committee is being constituted to consider inclusion/exclusion of investigations/treatment procedures/implants, etc, under CGHS.

Minutes of the Advisory Committee Meeting for web-based Pensioners' Portal held on 29th August, 2014 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Pension, AR&PG)

A list of participants is annexed (not reproduced)

2. A meeting of the Advisory Committee for Web-Based Pensioners' Portal under NeGP was held on 29th August, 2014 under the chairmanship of Secretary (P, AR&PG) in Lok Nayak Bhawan, New Delhi with a view to seek suggestions etc. for further improvements of the Pensioners' Portal.

3. Secretary (P, AR&PG) welcomed the participants and requested JS (Pension) to give a brief background of constitution and role of the Advisory Committee. JS (Pension), while describing the background, mentioned that the Pensioners' Portal has been progressing well based on the inputs provided from time to time by user Departments forming part of the Advisory Committee. The participants were also informed that since the last meeting of the Advisory Committee was held in June, 2013, the Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare (DoP&PW) have added to the Portal two new components namely Bhavishya (an On-line Pension Sanction and Tracking System) & Sankalp (an initiative to channelize the skill and expertise of pensioners into meaningful social activities post retirement). While giving a brief description of background and concept of these two new applications, a brief glimpse of these two web based applications was also shown online to the participants. Both initiatives were well appreciated by the members of Advisory Committee. The participants were also informed that the website of Pensioners' Portal which includes latest circulars/instructions/activities of the Department is regularly being updated.

4. At this point of time and in the context of Bhavishya software, the issue regarding timely processing of pension papers of prospective pensioners also came up. Secretary (P, ARPG) desired that the Departments/Offices dealing with pension papers should play a proactive role in discussing with the pensioners any existing discrepancies/shortcomings in the service records and how best these could be rectified/overcome to avoid delay in processing the pension papers. He desired that all required actions should be completed well before the date of the retirement for timely disbursement of retirement dues.

5. The representative of Bharat Pensioners Samaj felt that software similar to Bhavishya should also be introduced for Railway pensioners. To this, ED, Railway Board informed that Railways is already in the process of setting up separate Portal for Railway pensioners named Arpan. He also informed that Railways, on pension matters, have been following the circulars/guidelines etc issued by DOP& PW. Secretary (Pension) mentioned that circular issued by DoP & PW should get percolated to all lower formations/ implementing agencies as soon as possible to avoid any erroneous interpretations of Rules etc. and Bhavishya utilized in all Ministries/ Departments for ensuring timely sanction of pension.

Thereafter, the agenda points were taken up. JS (Pension) explained the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the decisions taken in the last Advisory Committee meeting. The representative Bharat Pensioners Samaj had sought some clarifications on point No. 4 of the ATR regarding AQ format, linkage with the Website of Pensioners' Portal and extending cooperation with Pensioners' Association, which was explained by the representative of M/o Railways. With regard to extending cooperation to the identified Pensioners' Associations by M/o Railway, it was decided that the DoP&PW will reiterate their earlier instructions on the same. The representatives of Bharat Pensioners Samaj and Indian Ex-Service League also stated that the computers with Scanner & Printers which were supplied to them in 2008-2009 under Pensioners' Portal Scheme are now obsolete (being old version) and it should be replaced by new one with latest compatible version. On this, it was felt that National Informatics Centre (NIC) team may visit these Associations in Delhi and give a feedback on the issue.

7. Giving a lead for discussions for further improvement of Pensioners' Portal, Secretary (Pension) wanted to know from the representative of D/O Electronics & Information Technology (Deity) whether the evaluation of Pensioners' Portal has reached its maturity and whether the mechanism of the Advisory Committee imbibed to play Advisory Role for improvement of Pensioners' Portal still exists. The representative

of Deity informed that new technologies such as Mobile Service Delivery, Cloud Computing (Meghraj), App Store etc. have recently emerged in the field of Information Technologies. The Deity has taken an initiative to study 5 big NeGPs for revamping those NeGPs by incorporating these technologies. DoP&PW can also think of new architecture for revamping of Pensioners' Portal. This matter can be further discussed with Deity and on the basis of discussions Deity may come up with a new Project. Use of mobile applications would be desirable. JS (Pension) also pointed out to the representative of Deity for completing the Impact Assessment of Pensioners' Portal by an independent agency for which DoP & PW has been writing to Deity for the last one year or so.

8. The DDG, NIC was of the view that since the Portal is meant for Pensioners who may not be so computer savvy and other stakeholders, the users of the Pensioners' Portal should be visited to have more realistic view of improving the Pensioners' Portal. The representative of D/O Ex-Serviceman Welfare mentioned that the present format of CPENGRAMS do not contain provisions for sending reminders by nodal officers to its subordinate formations. This facility should be created and there should be a provision of 'Alert' for 'Directions' subsequently issued by nodal Ministry to its subordinate formations. He also desired that there should be such facility for search of cases of Defence Personnel on the basis of Army ID number which is carried by Defence Personnel throughout their service period and thereafter.

9. The representative of National Ex-Service League felt the need for simplification of use of Grievance Redressal facility for rural areas as most of the Ex-Servicemen reside in these areas. He was, however, informed that since internet facilities are speedily percolating to rural areas also through Common Service Centres (CSC), there should not be any difficulty even for pensioners from rural areas to make use of facilities under Pensioners' Portal. However, the use of CSCs by pensioners in village areas could be worked out as this would lead to more optimum utilization of resources.

Decisions

1) All required actions for completions and processing of pension papers should be completed well before the date of the retirement

for timely disbursement of retirement dues.

(Action: All Ministries/Department)

2) All circulars issued/uploaded by DoP&PW on their website should get percolated to all formations and implementing agencies as soon as possible to avoid any erroneous interpretations of Rules etc. In addition to this, M/O Railway will also make a link with FAQs of DoP&PW through their website.

(Action: All Ministries/Department)

3) For extending cooperation to the identified Pensioners Associations by M/o Railway, the DoP&PW will reiterate their earlier OM.

(Action: DoP&PW & M/O Railways)

4) The representatives of Bharat Pensioners Samaj and Indian Ex-Service League also stated that the computers with scanner & printers, supplied to them in 2007-2008 under Pensioners' Portal Scheme are now obsolete (being old version) and it should be replaced by new one with latest compatible version. On this, National Informatics Centre (NIC) mentioned that a team of NIC-DoP&PW will look into the matter and accordingly give their views in the matter.

(Action: NIC-DoP&PW)

5) Consideration of a new project on architecture for revamping of Pensioners' Portal with new technologies

(Action: Deity, NIC & DoP&PW)

6) Impact Assessment of Pensioners Portal by an Independent Agency.

(Action: Deity)

7) Present format of CPENGRAMS under Pensioners' Portal do not contain provisions of sending reminders by nodal officers to its subordinate formations and also make provision of 'Alert' for directions subsequently issued by nodal Ministry to its subordinate formations

(Action: NIC-DoP&PW)

2. Concluding the meeting, Secretary (Pension) observed that there is a large force of pensioners which needs to be handled with dignity. We should be able to take forward this message by improving the facilities available under Pensioners' Portal. He also thanked all participants and other Ministries for extending all cooperation for achieving the objectives of Mission of Pensioners Welfare.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)
Health Insurance Scheme for the Poor and Workers of Unorganized Sectors

By- **K.B.Krishna Rao**, Secretary, K P&T PA

Government of India, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, New Delhi has identified **Karnataka Posts and Telecommunications Pensioners' Association** in its efforts for involvement of Pensioners' Associations in monitoring the quality of coverage of Rashtriya Swasthya Bima yojana, a health insurance scheme for the workers in the unorganized sectors and BPL families. This health scheme is administered by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Govt. of India. In the State of Karnataka, the Department of Labour is the State Nodal Agency for implementation of the Scheme. The Joint Labour Commissioner, Department of Labour, Govt. of Karnataka oversees the implementation of the scheme as CEO, assisted by a Senior Consultant and other office staff.

2. The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare desires that Central Government Pensioners residing in various parts of Karnataka involve themselves in implementation of this unique social welfare scheme, which has been specially designed for the under privileged sections of the society.

3. Karnataka P&T Pensioners Association calls upon its members to actively participate in implementation of this Health Insurance Scheme in their respective blocks/villages and help the needy persons in getting the benefits admissible to them under the Scheme. The role of pensioners and the functions that could be performed by them are listed at the end of this article below. Salient features of RSBY furnished in the following paragraphs.

4. About the Scheme:

Government of India, in April 2008 started the scheme named as "Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana"(RSBY), as an initiative under the "Unorganized Workers Social Security Act (2008)" enacted by the Govt. of India to provide for Social Security and welfare of the unorganized workers. The Scheme which was initially designed to target only the below poverty line (BPL) households, has recently been extended to cover non-BPL categories of informal sectors also. The Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India,

in coordination with the State Governments is monitoring the Scheme.

4.1. The objective of RSBY is to provide health insurance cover to the beneficiaries from unorganized sector, enrolled under the scheme, protection from financial liabilities arising out of health shocks that involve hospitalization. Beneficiaries under the Scheme are entitled to hospitalization coverage up to Rs. 30,000/- per year for most of the diseases that require hospitalization.

4.2. Pre-existing health conditions are covered and there is no age limit to become a beneficiary of RSBY. Coverage extends to five members of the family which includes the head of household, spouse and up to three dependents. Beneficiaries need to pay only Rs.30/- as registration fee while Central and State Governments pay the premium to the Insurance Company selected by the State Government to provide health insurance cover to the beneficiaries.

5. Unique Features of RSBY

- * Participating BPL and other identified households have the freedom of choice between Public and Private Hospitals
- * Transportation cost of Rs. 100/- per visit to the hospital for treatment is paid to the beneficiary (maximum of Rs. 1000/- per year per family)
- * Maternity expenses with new born baby care are also covered by the scheme.
- * The Insurance Company is paid premium for each household enrolled for RSBY
- * Hospitals are paid per beneficiary treated.
- * Intermediaries such as NGOs who assist BPL households are paid for the service rendered
- * Every beneficiary family is issued a biometric- enabled smart card containing their finger prints and photographs.
- * All the empanelled hospitals are IT enabled and connected to the server at the District level to ensure a smooth data flow regarding service utilization.

- * The biometric enabled smart card enables the beneficiary enrolled in a particular district, to use his/her card in any RSBY empanelled hospital across the Country, which is helpful to the migrating families.
- * A beneficiary of RSBY gets cashless medical facility in any of the empanelled Hospitals by producing his/her smart card and providing verification through his/her finger print.
- * The Government fixes the package rates for a large number of medical Interventions/procedures.
- * The scheme is a cashless & paper less scheme.

6. How the Scheme works:

- * RSBY is a Government sponsored Health Insurance Scheme for the BPL and Non-BPL households of the country providing social security schemes to mitigate risks due to disability, health shocks, maternity and old age ailments which all unorganized workers are exposed to, and are likely to suffer from.
- * The majority of the financing, ie. about 75%, is provided by the Government of India, while the State Governments pay the balance of 25%.
- * Beneficiaries need to pay only Rs. 30/- as the registration fee.
- * The State Governments select a public or a private insurance company through competitive bidding to provide health insurance in the State for a particular district
- * State Governments prepare and submit the data having the details of all the family members who are beneficiaries of the scheme in electronic format to the Government of India.
- * Enrollment of beneficiary households: The Insurance Company selected by the State Government for implementation of the health scheme, prepares the enrollment schedule for each village/block, along with dates, with the help of District level officials. As per the schedule, the list of prospective beneficiary households is displayed at the enrollment station and at important places in the village in advance.

Mobile enrollment stations are set up at local centres like Public schools in each Village/Block. These stations are equipped by the Insurance Company with hardware required to collect biometric information and photographs of the beneficiaries and a printer to print smart cards with photo. The smart card, enclosed in a plastic cover, along with an information pamphlet with description of the scheme and the list of empanelled hospitals is given to the beneficiary on the spot.

7. Utilisation

The transaction process begins when the member of the enrolled house hold visits the empanelled hospital. The RSBY help desk at the hospital verifies the identity of the beneficiary by photograph and finger prints stored in his/her smart card and guides him/her to the medical officer. If a diagnosis leads to hospitalization, the beneficiary avails the medical procedure indicated in the pre-specified packages. At the time of discharge from the hospital, the smart card is again swiped along with finger print verification and pre-specified cost of the medical procedure is deducted from the amount available in the card. The beneficiary is also paid by the hospital Rs. 100/- as transportation expenses.

8. Non-BPL categories of unorganized /informal sector workers covered under RSBY

1. MGNREGA(Those who have worked for 15 days & more in the previous financial year)
2. Beedi Workers
3. Domestic Workers
4. Licensed Railway Porters/Vendors/Hawkers
5. Rag Pickers
6. Street Vendors
7. Construction Workers
8. Postmen
9. Auto rickshaw and Taxi Drivers
10. Cycle Rickshaw Pullers
11. Sanitation Workers
12. Weavers and Artisans

9. Role of Pensioners

Since RSBY is being implemented at grass root level Viz. Village Panchayats, Blocks/Ward level, large numbers of Civil and Defence

pensioners residing in the respective locations can involve themselves in effective implementation of this social welfare scheme which provides Medicare to the needy poorer sections of the society.

10. Functions that could be performed by the Pensioners -

Awareness generation amongst the target groups about their eligibility, process of enrolment and guiding them at the enrolment stations -

Facilitating empanelment of hospitals

11. Enrolment activities:

- * Token Distribution- among the identified households
- * Facilitating beneficiaries to visit enrolment stations
- * Guide the beneficiaries at the enrolment stations

12. Post enrolment activities:

- * Educating the beneficiaries to avail the benefits under the scheme
- * Furnishing information about empanelled hospitals
- * Assisting the beneficiaries at the empanelled hospitals in hospitalization procedure
- * Facilitate the beneficiaries in registration/ admission and discharge process at the hospitals
- * Visit enrolment stations/hospitals to collect feedback from the beneficiaries in the format designed by State Nodal Agency
- * The Pensioners can also involve themselves in:
 - Call Centre operations
 - Helpdesk operations
 - KIOSK management

Members of Karnataka P&T Pensioners' Association who are willing to enroll themselves as volunteers in assisting the beneficiaries under RSBY are requested to fill up the form given below and send it to the Secretary of the Association so as to reach him before 20-10-2014.

**Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana
Willingness to involve in
implementation of the scheme**

1. Name of the Pensioner
2. Department from which retired
3. Post held at the time of retirement
4. Date of retirement
5. Age
6. Address (with name of the District and PIN code no.)
7. Name of the village/ block/ward/district in which the pensioner is willing to extend his/her services in implementation of RSBY
8. Email ID(if any)
9. Phone No. Land line:
Mobile:

I,..... hereby express my willingness to involve myself in implementation of RSBY- Health Insurance Scheme for BPL households and workers in the unorganized / informal sectors-in the State of Karnataka.

Date: _____ Signature of the pensioner

Filled up form to be sent to:

The Secretary,
Karnataka P & T Pensioners' Association,
165, 4th Main, 3rd Block, 3rd Stage,
Basaveshwaranagar,
Bangalore-560079
Email: pensionersbhavan@gmail.com
Phone: 080 23230545
Mobile: 9483467750

OBITUARY

K.A.Visweswaraiah, LM-1854 retired Director, Telecom QA,BG, Expired on 9-8-2014 at the age of 74 years. He leaves behind his wife and a daughter.
Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved.

Donations Received		
LM/ALM	Name (Smt./Sri)	Rs/-
1401	C.G. Jagadish	500/-
1841	Paul Wilson	500/-

As per O.M. No. 38/37/08-P&PW(A) dated 28.8.2014. the DoP & PW decides to restrict the benefit of CAT, Principal Bench, New Delhi Order to the petitioners in SAG (S-29) Pensioners' Association - (Extracts of the O.M. - Paras 1 to 5 not reproduced)

6. The Contempt Petition No. 158/2012 filed in OA No. 655/2010 came up for hearing before the Hon'ble CAT, Principal Bench on 15.5.2014. The Hon'ble CAT, Principal Bench, New Delhi in its Order dated 15.5.2014 noted the submission by Govt. Counsel that the Ministry of Law has advised the Department to implement the Order dated 1.11.2011 of Hon'ble CAT, Principal Bench in OA No. 655/2010 qua the petitioners. In view of this, Hon'ble CAT disposed of the Contempt Petition with direction to the respondents to implement the directions of the Tribunal expeditiously preferably within three months.

7. In implementation of the Order dated 1.11.2011 of Hon'ble CAT, Principal Bench in OA No. 655/2010 and Order dated 15.5.2014 of the Hon'ble CAT in CP No. 158/2012, it has been decided that the revised pension of members of Central Government SAG (S-29) Pensioners' Association (as given in the enclosed list) will not be less than 50% of the sum of the minimum of pay in the Pay Band and the Grade Pay thereon corresponding to the pre-revised pay scale from which they had retired as arrived at with reference to the fitment tables annexed to the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure OM No. 1.1.2008-IC dated 30th August, 2008 of Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure).

8. The normal family pension in respect of Central Government SAG (S-29) Pensioners' Association (as given in the enclosed list) as revised w.e.f. 1.1.2006 in terms of para 4.1. or para 4.2 of the OM dated 1.9.2008 would also be further stepped up to 30% of the sum of minimum of pay in the Pay Band and the Grade Pay corresponding to the pre-revised pay scale in which the Government servant had retired, as arrived at with reference to the fitment tables annexed to the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure OM No. 1.1.2008-IC dated 30th August, 2008 of Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure)

9. In case the consolidated pension/family pension calculated as per para 4.1. of OM No. 38/37/08-P&PW(A) dated 1.9.2008 in respect of members of Central Government SAG (S-29) Pensioners' Association (as given in the enclosed list) is higher than the pension/family pension calculated in the manner indicated above, the same (higher consolidated pension/family pension) will continue to be treated as basic pension/family pension

10. All other condition as given in OM No. 38/37/08-P&PW(A) dated 1.9.2008, as amended from time to time shall remain unchanged in the case of pensioners as given in the list.

Constitution of Technical Committee to consider inclusion/exclusion of medicines/ investigations/treatment procedures/implants, etc., under CGHS.

(O.M. No. 2-2/2014/CGHS-HQ/PPT/CGHS(P) dated 27.8.2014 of MoH & FW)

With reference to the above mentioned subject the undersigned is directed to draw attention to the para (j) of the Office Memorandum No. 2-2/2014/CGHS-HQ/PPT/CGHS(P) dated the 25th August, 2014 and to state that with a view to provide a mechanism to update the investigations/treatment procedures/implants, etc, as an ongoing process, it has been decided to constitute a Technical Committee to consider inclusion/exclusion of medicines/investigations/ treatment procedures/implants, etc., under CGHS. The composition of Committee shall be as follows:

1. Spl. Director General of Health Services, Chairman

2. Medical Superintendent, Dr RML Hospital, Member
3. Director, CGHS, Dte. General of CGHS, Member Secretary
4. Three Specialists of concerned Specialty from amongst the HoDs of the AIIMS, RR Hospital, GB Pant Hospital, ESIC Hospitals and Railway Hospitals.

The Committee shall also recommend the rate/ceiling rate for the medicines/investigations/ treatment procedures/implants, etc., or recommend a mechanism for arriving at a reasonable rate/ceiling rate for the same.

Report on the meeting with the Addl. Sec. & DG CGHS on CGHS matters

Dr. R.K.Jain, Additional Secretary & DG CGHS, New Delhi, who was on a visit to Bangalore wished to interact with the Representatives of Pensioners' Associations in Bangalore. A meeting, arranged by the Additional Director, CGHS, Bangalore at "Shruthi Auditorium", Kendriya Sadana, Bangalore on 20-9-2014 was attended by Representatives of several pensioners Associations, Office Bearers of CCCGPA, Karnataka, Chief Medical Officers I/c of CGHS Wellness Centres and CGHS Advisory Committee Members.

2. The meeting commenced at 3-15 p.m. Dr. R.K.Jain, after welcoming the Representatives, in his opening remarks, recalled the meeting he had with the Representatives in May, 2014 and stated that many developments have taken place in CGHS after the last meeting & therefore, he wished to ascertain the views of all, especially on the changes brought about in issue of medicines, reimbursement of expenditure and treatment procedures vide MoH & FW O.M. dated 25th August, 2014. Explaining the changes introduced, he stated that for routine treatment, medicines listed in the CGHS formulary only will be supplied and for medicines prescribed outside the formulary, medicines with similar therapeutic effect will be supplied. Medicines will be supplied for a maximum period of one month and in case of CGHS beneficiaries going abroad, medicines will be supplied for a maximum period of three months. Investigations/ treatment procedures for which there are prescribed CGHS rates only will be allowed. While listing many other changes introduced, he stated that the idea is not to trouble or inconvenience the beneficiaries, but to prevent large scale wastage and to bring some sort of control in the huge expenditure being incurred.

3. Sri S.Radhakrishna, General Secretary, Coordination Committee of Central Government Pensioners' Associations, Karnataka, referring to the Memorandum on CGHS matters submitted to the AS&DG, CGHS during his last visit in May, 2014 stated that many issues raised in the Memorandum remain unaddressed and pointed out that due to delay in revision of package rates, in Bangalore, now only two empanelled private hospitals are providing cashless facility to CGHS Beneficiaries and therefore, revision of package

By- **K.B.Krishna Rao**, Secretary, K P&T PA

rates should be done on a priority basis. The DG CGHS replied that the package rates have already been revised in Delhi and it will be done in respect of Bangalore also "very very shortly".

4. Sri Radhakrishna, referred to the issues relating to delay in issue of Plastic cards and stated that identification of a firm in Bangalore for that purpose has not yet been done despite an assurance given in the last meeting. The DG, CGHS replied that the Additional Director, CGHS Bangalore has been asked to send a proposal on this subject to the DG, CGHS New Delhi. On the question of supply of Ayurvedic medicines through local purchase, the DG CGHS stated that supply of medicines, whether Ayurvedic, Allopathic or Unani, CGHS prefers supply of medicines only through its formulary.

5. On the latest orders imposing certain restriction on supply of medicines, Investigations, treatment procedures, implants etc. Sri Radhakrishna said that while the Associations per se do not totally oppose some of them, they request that the decision on supply of medicines for one month instead of the existing period of two months should be reviewed at least in respect of beneficiaries who are aged 80 years and above. At this stage, Sri N. Bhaskaran, Advisor to CCCGPA, intervened to say that CGHS, considering the age of beneficiaries, has already extended the facility of "out of turn consultation with Doctors" for those who are 80 years and above and therefore, on the question of supply of medicines also, some concession should be shown to them. Sri S.S.Ramanatha Rao, President, KCGPA, suggested that the period could be two months instead of the demand of three months.

6. Dr. R.K.Jain, DG, CGHS responding to the requests made by the Associations said that while he appreciates the way in which the issue has been presented by the Representatives, considering the difficulties involved in supply of medicines for 3 months and the resultant wastage of medicines and the huge expenditure on purchase, it may not be possible to accede to the request. However, he had noted the points made and would see "what best could be done" in the matter.

7. Sri. K.B.Krishna Rao, Chairman CCCGPA Karnataka, brought to the notice of the DG, CGHS that follow up order stated to have been issued by MoH & FW on 9-1-2014, extending CGHS facilities to BSNL pensioners, has not been circulated and the same has not been uploaded to the website of either the Ministry of Health & FW or the website of CGHS, though the Official Representatives of Ministry of Health & FW who attended the 25th meeting of SCOVA held in Delhi on 5-9-2014 informed him that the Order has been issued. The DG CGHS asked Dr.Umeshchandra.S Biradar, Additional Director, CGHS Bangalore to supply a copy of the Order dated 9-1-2014 to CCCGPA.

8. The following issues were raised by the Representatives of Associations attending the meeting:

Sri S.Radhakrishna Chairman CCCGPA:

Extension of CGHS facilities to Pensioners of Autonomous/ Statutory bodies

Sri N.Bhaskaran Advisor CCCGPA:

Earnest money deposit to be made by empanelled hospitals to be done away with

Sri O.M.Bhaskaran, Secretary, Karnataka Income Tax Department Pensioners' Association:

Non-supply of medicines prescribed even by Government Hospitals like Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology.

Sri A Poobalan, Advisory Committee Member, CGHS Wellness Centre No. 10:

Non-supply of medicines prescribed by Nephrologist, Victoria Hospital and Skin Creams prescribed by the Dermatologist, CGHS Polyclinic.

Sri P.Vijayaraghavan, Advisory Committee Member, CGHS, W.C.No.3 Basavanagudi:

Stoppage of supply of Insulin vials.

Sri A.K.S Rao, Advisory Committee Member, CGHS W.C.No.6, Jayanagar:

Discontinuation of many medicines from the list of medicines to be supplied and inclusion of medicines in the list of inadmissible medicines, causing hardship to the beneficiaries.

Sri B.B.Poddar, Advisory Committee Member, CGHS Polyclinic:

- a) Revision of list of medicines included in CGHS formulary and inclusion of those

medicines in the list wherever local purchase is not possible/permissible.

- b) Immunization of beneficiaries who are 50

Sri Ashok S Kololgi, Secretary, Karnataka Central Govt. Pensioners' Association:

Treatment of members of Public in CGHS Wellness Centres in Delhi.

Sri M. Janardanan, Secretary, Survey of India Pensioners' Association:

Appointment of more number of Doctors in Wellness Centres where there are more number of beneficiaries attached to it.

Sri G.M.Pillai, Advisory Committee Member, CGHS Polyclinic:

Shifting of Polyclinic to NTI premises on Bellary Road.

9. Dr. R.K.Jain, DG CGHS, responded to each of the issues pointed out by the Representatives and the replies given were as stated below.

- * Officials on deputation to Autonomous bodies have been given CGHS facilities.
- * It has been decided to redesign the Website of CGHS .A link for Circulars will be provided
- * Collection of EMD from empanelled hospitals is essential. Bills amounting of Crores of rupees are paid to them. EMD collected is comparatively a very small amount. Further, EMD collected from hospitals managed by charitable Institutions is at 50% of the EMD collected from other hospitals.
- * A Committee has been set up to review the list of medicines included in the CGHS formulary. New medicines will be added wherever required. Insulin vials are now being supplied. CGHS is not against inclusion of any branded medicines in its formulary.
- * A technical Committee is being constituted to consider inclusion/exclusion of Investigations/ implants/investigation procedures under CGHS.
- * In Delhi, some Wellness Centres, with less number of beneficiaries availing treatment have been identified to treat senior citizens from general public. Only consultation facility is given. Medicines are not issued.
- * Additional Director, CGHS, Bangalore will take decision on shifting of Polyclinic.

The meeting ended at 4-30 p.m.

**COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATIONS, KARNATAKA (R)**

(Regd. under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act 1960: Regn. No. 1070/98-99)

212, "Kaveri", 7th 'A' Main, Hampinagar, Bengaluru-560 104. Ph.: 080 -23386661 E-mail: cccgpabangalore@gmail.com

K.B. Krishna Rao, Chairman ☎ 23230355	S. Radhakrishna General Secretary ☎ 23386661 M. 944880921	O.M. Bhaskaran Treasurer ☎ 23451578
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**Proceedings of the Annual General Body Meeting of the Coordination
Committee of Central Government Pensioners' Associations, Karnataka,
held on 31st August, 2014**

The Annual General Body Meeting of the Coordination Committee of Central Government Pensioners' Associations, Karnataka was held on 31st August, 2014 at Udaya Bhanu Kala Sangha, Gavipuram Extension, Bangalore-560019. The meeting commenced at 10-30 a.m. with Sri. S. Radhakrishna, Chairman CCCGPA in the chair. Representatives from 18 Affiliate Associations attended the meeting.

2. Sri N. Bhaskaran, General Secretary, welcomed the Representatives and requested the Chairman to conduct the proceedings. The Chairman placed the Agenda before the House which was adopted. Sri N. Bhaskaran, stated that the Annual Report has already been circulated amongst all the Affiliate Associations and therefore the same need not be read again. However, the Representatives can seek any information required. The Annual report was adopted unanimously.

3. Sri O.M. Bhaskaran, Treasurer, CCCGPA presented the Audited Statement of Accounts for the year 2013-14 which was also adopted by the House.

4. The Chairman, Sri Radhakrishna, initiating discussions on the other items of the Agenda, stated that as a result of the efforts made by Sri N. Bhaskaran in uniting the Leaders of Pensioners' Associations at the National level, a Common Memorandum could be submitted to the 7th Central Pay Commission. Tracing the history of Trade Union Movement in Karnataka, Sri Radhakrishna was reminiscent of the times when the Confederation of Central Government Employees and Workers, in Karnataka, with a team of dedicated Trade Union Leaders, which included stalwarts like Sri Bhaskaran, Sri Raghathan, Sri Ananda and Sri Chabaque

By- **K.B. Krishna Rao, Chairman, CCCGPA**

lead many struggles in the State in the cause of Central Government Employees. Referring to the contribution made by Sri Bhaskaran in sixties and seventies in P&T Trade union movement, he spoke at length on the constructive role played by Sri. Bhaskaran in ensuring unity among RMS Unions in Karnataka, despite a vertical ideological divide amongst the top leaders at the CHQ and Federation levels.

5. Sri Bhaskaran, General Secretary, initiated discussions on the Common Memorandum submitted to the 7th Central Pay Commission by Bharat Central Pensioners' Confederation (BCPC) and on the meeting that the Representatives of CCCGPA had with the 7th Central Pay Commission, on 24th August, 2014 at Bangalore. He called up Sri. K.B. Krishna Rao, Secretary Karnataka P & T Pensioners' Association, who was one of the Representatives who attended the meeting with 7th CPC, to brief the Affiliate Associations attending the AGB, about the issues raised by CCCGPA in the oral hearing granted to it by the 7th CPC and the response of the Pay Commission.

6. Sri K.B. Krishna Rao, dealt at length on the efforts made by CCCGPA on submission of a common memorandum to the 7th CPC and on seeking an interview with it for an oral hearing. Narrating the initiative taken by Sri Bhaskaran, in uniting major Pensioners' Associations in the Country during the year 2006, which resulted in submission of "One Memorandum" to the 6th CPC, he stated that Sri Bhaskaran, continuing with his endeavour this time around, ensured submission of a Common Memorandum to the 7th CPC also. He referred to the meeting of Pensioners' Associations held at Chennai on 14-6-2014 under

the auspices of BCPC and NCCPA in which the draft of Common Memorandum to be submitted to the 7th CPC was finalized. He expressed his happiness for inclusion of almost all the issues/ items suggested by the CCCGPA, and Karnataka P&T Pensioners' Association in the memorandum submitted by BCPC on 29-6-2014. He expressed his displeasure over modification made to the issue regarding "treating BSNL pensioners as Central Government Pensioners", which was not in tune with the suggestion made by CCCGPA on the subject.

7. Continuing with his briefing, Sri Krishna Rao, gave a detailed account of the meeting with the 7th Central Pay Commission held on 24-8-2014, at Kumarakrupa Guest House, Bangalore and stated that the Chairman, Justice Sri Ashok Kumar Mathur and other Members of the Pay Commission were extremely responsive and all the Representatives of CCCGPA, who presented their subjects, got a patient hearing. He stated that the CCCGPA in its submissions before the Pay Commission laid emphasis on core issues like quantum of pension, family pension, age-related additional pension, complete parity in pension, health care, extension of CGHS facilities to pensioners of Statutory/Autonomous bodies and treating BSNL pensioners as Central Government pensioners.

7.1. Explaining the submissions made before the 7th CPC, Sri Rao stated that the demands on increase in quantum of pension at 67% of the last pay, grant of pension drawn by the pensioner as family pension for the first 10 years after the death of the pensioner and at 40% of the last pay drawn thereafter for life, commencement of age-related additional pension on completion of 65 years instead of 80 years and grant of complete parity in pension between pre-7th CPC and post-7th CPC pensioners received the attention of the Pay Commission and the Chairman assured favourable consideration of the demands made. Sri Krishna Rao thanked Sri S. Radhakrishna, Chairman, who had made a power point presentation of the issues presented before the Pay Commission, which helped the CCCGPA Representatives to put forth their points of view on several issues effectively.

7.2 On the other two major issues presented before the Pay Commission- Health Care and

Central Government Pensioner status to BSNL pensioners, Sri Krishna Rao, stated that the Chairman, 7th CPC assured sympathetic consideration of (1) the demand made by Dr. T.S.Sathyanarayana Rao, President, Central Government Pensioners' Association, Mysore, that introduction of the proposed "Health Insurance Scheme" for pensioners should be expedited (2) to the demand placed before the Pay Commission by Sri A.N.Balaram, President, Coffee Board Pensioners' Association for extension of CGHS facilities to retirees of Autonomous/ Statutory bodies and (3) treating BSNL pensioners as Central Government pensioners.

8. Sri S.S. Ramanatha Rao, President, Karnataka Central Government Pensioners' Association, whose request for a meeting with the Central Pay Commission, was acceded to by the Pay Commission, speaking on the issues pursued by him with the Pay Commission, stated that he strongly pleaded that the Pay Commission must recommend to the Government for grant of Interim Relief to pensioners in view of the fact the earlier Pay Commissions had recommended grant of Interim Relief pending submission of their final report. But, the Chairman stated that they do not have a mandate on this issue and therefore, they cannot send a report on this score unless the Government specifically asks them to do so. The Chairman further said that the Associations have to take up this matter with the Government. Sri Ramanatha Rao suggested that all Pensioners' Associations should strongly urge the Govt. to grant Interim Relief.

9. Sri Sanjeeva Rao, President, Udupi District P&T Pensioners' Association, speaking on lack of medical facilities for pensioners living in Non-CGHS areas/ cities, stated that it would be difficult for pensioners to meet the medical expenditure out of their pension when indoor medical treatment is availed, particularly in case of medical emergencies. He demanded extension of CS (Medical Attendance) Rules, to pensioners.

10. Sri P.Gangadhara Rao, President, BSNL pensioners' Welfare Association, Karnataka Circle, spoke on the demands of BSNL pensioners placed before the 7th CPC and hoped that their demand that BSNL pensioners should be treated as Central Govt. pensioners and all the benefits including the fitment formula as

admissible to Central Govt. pensioners as per the recommendations of 7th CPC, should be extended to them also would be considered favourably by the Pay Commission.

11. Sri T.V.Surya Prakash, Secretary, Coffee Board Pensioners' Association, thanked the Office Bearers of CCCGPA for supporting their demand that CGHS facilities should be extended to the pensioners of Autonomous/Statutory bodies like Coffee Board, Tea Board etc. which received the attention of 7th CPC.

12. Sri Dabade, Secretary, All India Central Government Pensioners' Association, Bijapur, pointed out that Pension Adalat has not been held during the past two years by the Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Circle. The General Secretary stated that the matter will be taken up with CPMG. The Chairman, asked Sri K.B.Krishna Rao, Secretary KP&TPA who was to attend the 25th meeting of SCOVA to raise the issue of not holding of Pension Adalats by several Departments.

13. The election of Office Bearers for the years 2014-16 was taken up after conclusion of the discussions on the other items of the Agenda and the following were elected unanimously.

Chairman **Sri K.B.Krishna Rao**
Vice Chairmen -1 **Sri S.S.Ramanatha Rao**
Vice Chairmen -2 **Sri P.V.R.Murthy**
General Secretary **Sri S.Radhakrishna**
Joint Gen. Sec.-1 **Sri T.V. Suryaprakash**
Joint Gen. Sec.-2 **Sri P.Gangadhara Rao**
Treasurer **Sri O.M.Bhaskaran**
Sri N Bhaskaran, the outgoing General Secretary, was nominated as the permanent advisor to CCCGPA.

All the Secretaries of Affiliate Associations (other than those who were elected as office bearers) were elected to the Management Committee.

14. Newly elected Chairman Sri K.B.Krishna Rao spoke on the contribution of Sri Bhaskaran to the P&T Trade Union movement and pensioners' movement in Karnataka and stated that Sri Bhaskaran, who is the founder Secretary of

Karnataka P&T Pensioners' Association and founder General secretary of Coordination Committee of Central Government Pensioners' Associations, Karnataka, has stepped aside and has relinquished all the positions held by him in both the organizations. He said that Sri Bhaskaran, who entered the movement in 1960, has been a leader of impeccable credibility and his selfless service in the cause of working class, spreading over a span of 50 years is to be cherished. His greatness in training others to shoulder responsibilities in Unions / Associations and handing over to them, the mantle of the Associations which he was leading is worth emulating.

15. Sri Bhaskaran was given a standing ovation and slogan "Bhaskaran Zindabad" was raised by the Representatives of Pensioners' Associations attending the AGB.

16. The Chairman, Sri S.Radhakrishna, after making his concluding remarks, thanked Sri.T.V.Suryaprakash and the management of Udaya Bhanu Kala Sangha for making available the " Hall for holding the AGB meeting and all the Representatives attending the AGB.

17. Survey of India Pensioners' Association volunteered to host the next Management Committee Meeting of CCCGPA. The meeting ended at 1 p.m.

* * *

All communications to CCCGPA, Karnataka to be addressed hereafter to the newly elected General Secretary whose address appears on top of page No. 16.

ALL INDIA CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Month	CPI Base 2001=100	12 Months' Total	Monthly Ave.	% increase over
				115.76
June 14	246	2879	239.92	107.25
July 14	252	2896	241.33	108.47

By- K.B.Krishna Rao

Subscription of Rs. 100/- received for Pensioners' Champion in August-September 14

LM/ALM	Name (Smt./Sri)	LM/ALM	Name (Smt./Sri)	LM/ALM	Name (Smt./Sri)	LM/ALM	Name (Smt./Sri)
84	R.Gopalakrishna	1069	R.Srinivasan	1372	M.K.George	1807	S.V.Armugam
106	A.Aithappa Naik	1081	A.Rama Subramanya Iyer	1401	C.G.Jagadish	1880	T.Vishwanathan
113	A.C.Abdul Kareem	1101	V.P. Panduranga Naidu	1421	Y.C.Dixit	1893	C.G.Krishna Murthy
201	D.Lakshminaryana Rao	1102	G.Madhava Murthy	1518	B.A.Krishnaprasad	1907	K.Gopala Rao
398	S.Srinivasan	1137	A.Shivaraman	1527	T.Mani	1960	N.Jayavel
521	V.L.Devadas	1138	L.Gururaja Rao	1558	Shamsundar	1975	G.S.Chandrasekhara Bharathi
541	Bandigaiah	1157	C.S.Ramanna	1559	S.B.Nagaraja Rao	1995	R.J.Chakrapani
543	N.M.Janamatti	1197	L.N.Vaidyanath	1576	K.F.Nazareth	2045	B.V.Srinivasa
649	K.V. Chennakrishnan	1291	V.T.Jayachandran	1588	K.M.Gopinath	2053	Mariamamma George
663	M.S.Shivashankaran	1343	B.S.Jaiparameshwar	1733	S.C.Bose	2114	M.R.K.Rama Rao
800	K.Shivaswamy	1352	Shashikala.S.Kodgi	1774	G.S.Shetty	2131	Subbhadra Jagadish Shenvi
912	M.C.Keshavamurthy Rao						

Subscription of Rs. 200/- received for Pensioners' Champion

LM/ALM	Name (Smt./Sri)	LM/ALM	Name (Smt./Sri)	LM/ALM	Name (Smt./Sri)
525	N.S.Nagaraja Rao	1068	R.S.Krishna Murthy	1469	S.B.Mathod
535	T.Sriranga	1079	C.Srinivasa Murthy	1545	Prakash Kandapalli
594	K.B.Kamath	1111	S.Srinivasan	1585	P.Muthaiah
611	B.Anantha Ramu	1192	G.P.Venkatachalam	2093	H.T. Govinda Gowda
665	V.R.Singarachar	1218	M.Prabha	2110	C.S.Chikkerur
848	K.V.Sathyarayanan	1295	V.S.Kalyanaraman	2113	N.G.Joshi
853	Arundhati	1305	L.R.Rajaram		
996	S.V.Krishna Murthy	1390	Syed Abdul Zaheer		

Subscription of Rs. 300/- received for Pensioners' Champion

LM/ALM	Name (Smt./Sri)	LM/ALM	Name (Smt./Sri)	LM/ALM	Name (Smt./Sri)
155	N.S.Chittargi	993	K.B.Mohan Rao	1440	M.S.Dattathi
562	N.Varadarajan	1276	M.R.Sridhara	1522	Dr..B.Raghotham Rao Desai

Subscription of Rs. 400/- received for Pensioners' Champion

LM/ALM	Name (Smt./Sri)
929	K.V. Lakshminarayana

Subscription of Rs. 500/- received for Pensioners' Champion

LM/ALM	Name (Smt./Sri)	LM/ALM	Name (Smt./Sri)	LM/ALM	Name (Smt./Sri)
1969	K.R.G.Durgaprasad Rao	1723	B.Lakshmana	1945	R.Sakthidharan
384	A.K.Raghothamachar	1841	Paul Wilson	2087	K.R.Manikarnika Devi
1172	R.S.Kulkarni				

Subscription of Rs. 600/- received for Pensioners' Champion

LM/ALM	Name (Smt./Sri)
1693	V.N. Deshpande

An Appeal for Donations to the flood-affected in the State of Jammu & Kashmir

Dear Members,

As all of us are aware, torrential rains caused flooding of several areas of the State of Jammu and Kashmir rendering lakhs of people shelterless and brought untold miseries to the hapless populace. Rehabilitation of the displaced and rejuvenation of the vast areas devastated by floods, it is said, requires a fortune.

The Executive Committee of the Karnataka P&T Pensioners' Association, in its meeting held on 13th September, 2014 has resolved to donate a sum of Rs.10,000/- from its funds to the "Prime Minister's National Relief Fund" and appeal to all of its members to donate liberally to the fund, thereby coming to the help of fellow citizens in their hour of need. We feel that, since pensioners are getting their arrears of Dearness Relief in the month of October 2014, donating a part of that amount in the cause of flood victims, may not burden them financially. Hence we appeal to our members to donate their one month's D.R. arrears to the National Relief Fund subject to a minimum of Rs. 500/-.

Donations may please be made by crossed cheque only, payable to the Karnataka P&T Pensioners' Association, Bangalore and sent by post to our Treasurer at the address given below so as to reach him before 15-11-2014. Total amount of donations collected by the Association will be remitted to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund by the Association during the third week of November, 2014 and the names of donors and the details of remittance will be published in the November, 2014 issue of this journal.

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of Rs.10,001/- sent by our member Sri H.V.Ramanatha, LM-1083, as donation to the National Relief Fund.

Donation to PM's National Relief Fund is eligible for deduction in the Annual Income of the individual under Section 80-G of Income Tax Act.

For & on behalf of the Executive Committee of K P&T PA

K.B.Krishna Rao, Secretary
Ph: 080 23230545
M: 9483467750

Cheques to be sent to:

Sri. K.R.Anantha Ramu, Treasurer, K P&T PA,
1158, 7th Main, 7th Block, HMT Layout,
Vidyaranya, Bangalore-560097
Ph: 080 23642466 Mob: 9448477129

Regd. Journal

If undelivered, please return to:

**Karnataka Posts and Telecommunications
Pensioners' Association (R)
1397, 23rd Main, Banashankari II Stage,
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