

PENSIONERS' PATRIKA

पेंशनर्स
पत्रिका

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Waiting on
Justice

**"PAY REVISION IN
BSNL AND
PENSION
REVISION
CAN NOT GO
TOGETHER"**

waiting, waiting, waiting...
waiting...

**500 DAYS
ARE GONE**



**HON. MINISTER
SHRI ASHVINI VAISHNAV
TOLD US ON 25-3-2022**



JOINT PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS BY TEN CENTRAL TRADE UNIONS AGAINST ANTI LABOUR POLICIES OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, ON 9-8-2023 .



PENSIONERS PATRIKA

BIMONTHLY JOURNAL
OF AIBSNLPWA (CHQ)

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Editorial

A PASSIONATE APPEAL FOR COMPASSIONATE DECISION



Respected Ashwini Vaishnavi,

The whole country knows that you are a Minister with difference. Once again you have proved it by your immediate, efficient and effective intervention when the tragic train accident took place at Balassore recently. But we, the Telecom employees moved to BSNL in 2000 and retired subsequently from the PSU, fail to understand why you could not overrule the unnecessary and unwanted objections raised by the officers of Sanchar Bhavan, who are notorious for their genetic negativity and traditional apathy towards staff at lower rungs and especially towards the pensioners in the matter of our pension revision.

You were very positive to tell us clearly on 22-3-2022 that "Pay revision in BSNL and pension revision cannot go together". You spontaneously understood that pay revision has to be done by the PSU depending upon the financial affordability and pension revision is the domain of central government. 500 days have gone since then. Much water has flown in Ganga and Yamuna.

3.6 lakhs DOT employees opted for BSNL in 2000 trusting upon the solemn assurance given by the Department on behalf of President of India that we would get 'government scheme of pension'. The top officers in DOT did not have faith in that assurance. Hence they did not opt for BSNL; but they ruled and ruined the new PSU as its managers. The people who opted for BSNL are being punished by those who cunningly and cleverly did not opt for it.

Most of us, except few who were thrown out under VRS, are above 65. We had worked in 'government service' for 25-35 years before joining the PSU. Our counterparts in Department of Posts (once our coworkers) are getting full pension on completion of ten years' service. They got pension revision in 2016. We are waiting for seven years. We are told that the file is pending for your decision. Bureaucrats are trying to shift the blame for delay to you.

We have full faith in your positive approach. Sir, we the four lakhs senior citizens retired from BSNL/MTNL, passionately appeal for your compassionate immediate action in the matter without further delay.

AHMEDABAD CWC

ALL INDIA BSNL PENSIONERS' WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Central Head Quarters [Regd. No. T 1833/09]

Identified & Registered under 'Pensioners Portal'

D No.54-19-31, Lakshmi Gokul Enclave, Jayaprakash Nagar,
LIC Colony, Vijayawada 520008

In accordance with the Art. 9 and Art. 14 of the Constitution of AIBSNLPWA, it is notified that a meeting of Central Working Committee of AIBSNLPWA shall be held on **1st and 2nd October, 2023** under the presidentship of Com D Gopalakrishnan, President. **The meeting will be held at Banquet Hall of White Cloud Hotel, Near Kankaria Gate No 1, Pushpkunj Road, Kankaria, Maninagar, Ahmedabad - 380008.** The meeting will commence from 10 AM of 1st Oct 2023. The Agenda of the meeting shall be:

AGENDA

1. President's Opening remarks
2. General Secretary's Report for the period since last AIC, Visakhapatnam
3. Statement of Accounts for the period under review.
4. Status of Pension Revision:
 - a. Our efforts,
 - b. The Case in PB CAT Delhi,
 - c. Future course of action
5. Other Court Cases
6. Organizational matters:
 - a) Functioning of CHQ, Circles and Districts.
 - b) Settlement of dispute in MP Circle, further developments.
 - c) Consideration of resignations from CHQ Office bearers
7. Publication of Pensioners Patrika and related matters
8. BSNL MRS and CGHS
9. Venue of Next CWC
10. Venue of Next AIC
11. Any other matter with the permission of Chair.

All Central office-bearers and Circle Secretaries are requested to attend the meeting in time. Please carry a valid Photo ID to produce at the time of Check in.

Yours fraternally

(V Vara Prasad)
General Secretary

16-08-2023



Pension Revision Case : COURT SCENES

Background:

It became clear in November 2019 after meeting then MoC Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad that pension revision is not possible through discussion. Secretariat meeting of AIBSNLPWA held in Bengaluru in January 2020 decided to file a case to get pension revision. Com Anupam Kaul, our Dy.GS helped to fix Shri Gautam Narain & Associates as lawyers. Pension Revision petition was filed by our CHQ on 10th September 2020 before PB, CAT, Delhi with 50 documents (in total more than 300 pages). It was admitted on 18th September 2020. I released a video (nearly 30 minutes) about the petition on that day itself. DoT filed counter only on 23rd December 2020. Then rejoinder and so on. The case was postponed to 18th May 2021 since BSNL did not file its counter. Then corona virus; non-availability of Bench were the reasons for the delay. As decided by our Vizag AIC 2022 a senior counsel Shri Sanjay Ghosh was engaged. Things started moving fast thereafter.

Highlight of the arguments.

The case was taken up for arguments on 10th and 13th July 2023. Com Anupam Kaul, our Dy GS was present on both the days despite incessant rain and floods We appreciate his dedication.

Our senior counsel forcefully put-forth the arguments in clear terms and the interaction by the Hon Bench with respondents was very interesting. On both days the Director (Estt.) was physically present and presented their

side in addition to their lawyers. On 13th, our lawyer Ms. Asmitha singh was in touch with us through whatsapp seeking some points.

10th July 2023

It came up before the Hon Bench after lunch at about 0230 pm and lasted for nearly 100 minutes. At the outset our senior counsel submitted before the Hon Bench that lakhs of retired employees of BSNL/MTNL are eagerly waiting for justice. He explained that DoT, through several OMs, apart from Rule 37-A of CCS (Pension) Rules has guaranteed all pensionary benefits to the pensioners & family pensioners of BSNL/MTNL. Since Mr Ghosh had explained his stand in the previous hearings, the Bench asked Mr Verma, advocate for respondents to proceed with his arguments. He submitted:-

1) The retirees of BSNL/MTNL are not eligible for pay/pension revision as per PSU norms as was done in 2007 and he cited three CAT judgements of Hyderabad, Bengaluru & Ernakulam.

2) Any pension revision in absence of pay revision will create a huge anomaly and BSNL which is running in heavy loss will not be able to cope up and it will increase the loss further.

3) The pensioners were given incentives at the time of opting for PSU arrangement and are already drawing better pension than Govt. Retirees. Having benefited from IDA pay scales, they are now trying to catch the faster train as BSNL is not able to revise their

pension, they are cleverly asking for Govt. Pension.

Hon Bench told the respondent's advocate that The CAT judgements referred by him are in no way connected to pension revision. In Hyderabad CAT, an individual sought for pension revision. *Here Pensioners' Associations representing lakhs of pensioners have filed the case and their claim cannot be ignored in the light of a solitary CAT judgement.* At this juncture our Senior counsel intervened and said that the judgement was delivered by a single bench that too by an Administrative Member.

On the 2nd & 3rd point, Hon Bench wanted to know whether the documents placed in the file relating to Rule 37-A are authentic and whether he certifies these documents. The Govt counsel concurred that the documents are authentic. Then the Hon Bench asked him to read Rule 37-A, sub-rule 8, 22 & 23 and gazette notification of 30th September 2000. Accordingly the advocates read those rules. Hon Bench told them that the 2nd point referred by you now does not reflect even remotely in Rule 37-A of pension rules.

At this point of time, Govt counsel informed the Hon Bench that **a senior officer of DoT is available in the court, and if the Hon Bench is pleased, we can hear some facts from him.** It was agreed to and he repeated the same story.

Hon Bench asked the senior officer (Director, Establishment) to read the pertinent paras of Rule 37-A. Hon Bench asked him to read loudly. On the issue of BSNL's finance, Hon Bench told the Director that *"you are the nodal ministry for BSNL and have you read the balance sheet of BSNL?"* The Director replied yes.

Then the Hon Bench asked him whether the balance sheet of BSNL reflects the pension expenditure for which the Director replied "No."

Advocate of other petitioner mentioned about the pension contribution made by BSNL at the maximum of the pay scale and all the recommendations of 7th CPC were implemented except pension revision. When the Director told that the pension revision was given in 2007 as per 2nd PRC, Hon Bench told that they are not willing to go into what happened in 2007. At one point, Hon Bench told the Director that **"you will also retire one day"**.

On the question of drawing higher pension than Govt. Pensioners our advocate told the Hon Bench that they are demanding the multiplication factor of 2.51 and not 2.57. Hon Bench told that they are not going into those details.

At this juncture, our senior counsel fired more salvos by referring to Cabinet Note of 25th December 2000 etc. He told the Hon Bench that IDA pay and pension was not our choice. It is based on Hon. Supreme Court judgement dated 3rd May 1990 followed by DPE OM dated 12th June 1990 which directs that PSUs formed after 1st January 1989 should only have IDA scales. He also placed various other relevant documents before the Hon Bench.

The restlessness of the respondents was visible as they kept on harping on the same points repeatedly. The Hon Bench got irritated and asked them *"Have you decided to dispense with Rule 37-A of CCS Pension Rules?"*

Hon Bench posted the matter to 13th July directing both the parties to submit their written brief and each party will be given five minutes.

13th July 2023

As directed earlier, the parties submitted their small written brief. Govt counsel told Hon Bench that pension revision cannot be done without pay revision. If it is done, it would result in anomalies. Hon Bench told them that it is a routine affair to have anomalies after any such revision. Since you are saying that these anomalies existed earlier, what action did you take to address that issue. At this moment our senior counsel told the Hon Bench that DoP&PW also implored upon DoT to take action in this regard four years back but DoT ignored it. The issue cannot be settled by sitting on the files. Hon Bench told the respondents that “you have not mentioned this problem in Rule 37-A of CCS Pension Rules. We can consider your pleading if you have incorporated in Rule 37-A that pension revision cannot be given if any anomaly arises”. Hon Bench told the respondents that the applicants have based their arguments on Rules, office memorandums, government orders and court judgements. But your argument may have logics but you have no records to justify it. The Director was given an opportunity to explain. There was nothing new in his explanation.

Hon Bench while relying on their written statements commented “what you are saying here is in contravention to your written statements and should it be reflected”.

Hon Bench sarcastically remarked that their today's written brief requires translation from English to English.

The case was adjourned to 16th August 2023 with the following order:

We make it clear that we deem the arguments from both the sides of the parties to be

complete. However, on the next date of hearing if there are any gaps to be filled or some issues to be clarified, we shall seek the indulgence of the learned counsels for the parties to answer our queries, if any.

16th AUGUST 2023

All were expecting that the Honourable CAT would dispose the case on 16th August 2023 as notified. But, unfortunately, on 14th August, the information came from our lawyers that “The Court will not be sitting on 16th”.

16th was not a holiday for the Court. The judges attended the Court and heard cases separately. But, the two judges did not come together to the Court Room to hear our case. Seven cases, listed for 16th August 2023, were simply postponed, without mentioning next date, through a notification. It is our ‘judicial delivery system’.

An official Press Release issued when CAT was established said:

Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) was established in 1985 under Article 323-A of the Indian Constitution to resolve and settle disputes and grievances related to the recruitment and conditions of service of government employees. CAT was set up to fast-track the decisions and settlements related to employee grievances. The goal was to decrease the workload on the courts by creating specialized organizations to settle employment-related issues.

17-08-2023

V Vara Prasad

Nationwide Digital Life Certificate Campaign to be held in 100 cities in November, 2023

Press Information Bureau Press Release on 9th August 2023

Submission of Life Certificates is an important activity to be carried out by pensioners every year in the month of November (with special provision for pensioners aged 80 years and above to submit their Life Certificates in the month of October) to ensure continuity of their pension.

To enhance 'Ease of Living' of Central Government pensioners, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has been promoting Digital Life Certificate (DLC) i.e. Jeevan Pramaan extensively. Initially submission of DLCs using biometrics was commenced. Subsequently the Department engaged with MeitY to develop a Face Authentication technology system based on Aadhar database whereby it is possible to give LC from any Android based smart phone. As per this facility, the identity of a person is established through face recognition technique and DLC gets generated. This breakthrough technology, launched in November 2021, reduced the dependence of pensioners on external bio-metric devices and made the process more accessible and affordable to masses by leveraging smartphone-based technology.

With a view to spread awareness amongst all the Central Government pensioners as well as the Pension Disbursing Authorities for use of DLC/Face Authentication technology to submit Digital Life Certificate, DoPPW launched a nation-wide campaign in the month of November 2022 in 37 cities through-out the country. The Campaign was a huge success with more than 35 lakh DLCs of Central Government Pensioner issued.

A similar Campaign will now be held from 1st to 30th November, 2023 in 100 cities across the country, targeting 50 lakh pensioners. To ensure the success of the campaign, so that the benefit of digital modes of Life Certificate submission reaches pensioners in the remotest corners of the country and also benefits super senior/ sick / incapacitated pensioners, a comprehensive circular with detailed guidelines has been issued defining roles and responsibilities of all the stakeholders which includes Ministries/ Departments of Government of India, Pension Disbursing Banks and Pensioners' Associations. These guidelines include nomination of nodal officers by the stakeholders, for the Campaign, spreading awareness / providing due publicity to DLC-Face Authentication technique through banners/posters placed strategically in offices and bank branches/ ATMs, use DLC/Face Authentication technique as far as possible where Doorstep banking services are availed, equipping dedicated staff at bank branches with an Android phone to use this technology when pensioners visit the branch for submission of Life Certificate, holding of Camps to enable pensioners to submit their DLCs without delay and home visit in case of bed ridden pensioners

In addition Pensioners' Welfare Associations have been sensitized to hold camps for pensioners for DLC submission. Teams from the Department will also be visiting various locations through-out the Country to assist pensioners in use of various digital modes to submit their Life Certificates. Due publicity will be given through Social Media using Twitter, Facebook and Videos on YouTube.

The 7 pages Guidelines are circulated to our units through whatsapp. Our branches are requested to take suitable action for the campaign and help members..... GS

A TIMELY ACTION BY CHQ

CHQ Email dated 6-7-2023 to Shri K Rajaraman Telecom Secretary Sanchar Bhawan New Delhi.

Respected sir,

We are the largest telecom pensioners organization in the country. Pension Revision Issue is the most important issue for four lakhs absorbed BSNL/MTNL pensioners. Previous Member(S) Dr. Mahesh Shuklaji held a meeting on 17/10/2022 with all the pensioners organizations wherein he summed up saying that

1. Delinking pension revision from pay revision is decided
2. Zero percent will not be pursued and the percentage shall be decided by Telecom secretary in consultation with Hon MoC.

We understood that the file was sent to you, sir, in April this year after elaborate discussion within DoT.

We met Hon MoC on 27/5/23 and he assured that this issue will be decided shortly. Later he became busy because of unfortunate train accident in Odisha.

Member (S) is due to retire this month. You are due for superannuation retirement in October 23. General election mode will set-in in few months' time. We are aware that this issue requires political clearance.

Dot has done lots of exercise. This should result in clearance for cabinet note.

Four lakhs absorbed pensioners are eagerly waiting for the revision for nearly 6 years. If this issue is cinched without any more delay, four lakhs pensioners families would be indebted to you, sir, and this government.

We earnestly hope that you would take necessary action immediately.

Shri K Rajaraman IAS and Shri Apurva Chandra IAS
Shri K Rajaraman IAS, Secretary Telecom has been appointed as Chairman of International Financial Services Authority for three years. He has relinquished charge from Telecom on 31-7-2023. Shri Apurva Chandra IAS, Secretary Information & Broadcasting is given additional charge of Telecom till regular appointment is made.

FAMILY PENSION : APPLICATIONS

Notification No. CCA/KRL/GEN/2022-23 dated 15-02-2023

Following documents may be forwarded to the undersigned for conversion of Normal Pension to Family Pension in the event of death of a Pensioner.

I. When the Family Pension is to be paid through the Joint Account given by the Pensioner at the time of retirement:

1. A request from the claimant.
2. Copy of Death Certificate
3. Annexure I (undertaking from Bank, attached)
4. Two Specimen signatures of the claimant
5. Two copies of Passport size photographs
6. Copy of Aadhar and PAN

II. When the Family Pension is to be paid through other than the Joint Account given by the Pensioner at the time of retirement:

1. A request from the claimant
2. Form 12 (As per CCS Pension Rules 2021. Form attached)
3. Copy of Death Certificate
4. Annexure I (Undertaking from Bank, attached)
5. Mandate Form (attached)
6. Cancelled Cheque/Copy of Bank Passbook
7. Two specimen signatures of the claimant
8. Two copies of Passport size photographs
9. Copy of Aadhar and PAN.

In case the application is submitted after 6 months from the date of death of the Pensioner, in addition to the above documents, Life Certificated and Non-marriage Certificate is also to be produced.

[Note 1. Above is a Notification issued by CCA , Kerala. Other CCAs might have also issued similar Notifications. The Forms mentioned can be obtained from CCA offices.

Note 2. It is advisable to open Joint Account by the Pensioner with his/her spouse to draw pension. It will help to easily get Family Pension in case of death of the Pensioner.

.. Editor]

RBI PENSION REVISION WITH 10% FITMENT

MoF eF No. 11/1/2023-JR dated 21-6-2023
to Governor, Reserve Bank of India

Please refer to RBI's letters CO HRMD No S5601/21.01.00/2022-23 dated 17-8-2022 and CO HRMD No. S782/21.01.000/2023-34 dated 19-4-2023, regarding revision of pension and family pension of all Pre-1.11.2017 retirees of RBI, post wage revision of serving employees in RBI effective from 1-11-2017.

2. The said proposal has been examined in this Department. The undersigned is directed to convey the following:

(a) Approval of the Central Government for a notional increase of 10% in pension plus Dearness Relief for pre-1.11.2017 retirees,

which shall result in an overall increase in basic pension by factor of 1.63 for these pensioners/family pensioners.

(b) The revision of pension/family pension as indicated in para (a) above would be on notional basis, and actual benefits shall be payable only with effect from 12-6-2023. No arrears on pension/family pension shall accordingly be payable for the period prior to 12.6.2023; and

(c) For any future revision of pension/family pension, prior approval of the Central Government would be required, both on quantum of revision as well as on the terms and conditions governing such revision.

ON RBI PENSION REVISION

D Gopalakrishnan, All India President, AIBSNLPWA

MoF (Department of Financial Services) issued a letter to Governor, RBI on 21/6/23 on the issue of revision of pension/family pension to RBI retirees. This was circulated in many groups in social media. Many may not know that this is not new. Similar order was issued by MoF on 5/3/2019.

Many of our pensioners have doubts after reading the above letter. Whether the same yard-stick will be applied to us. We can't say and the government may decide anything. But let us understand the issue and the background.

Financial institutions like Banks, LIC are not covered by PRC. Their pay/pension is determined on the basis of bilateral agreements. RBI management will sign the agreement with RBI officers' association and RBI employees association. Indian Bankers Association (IBA) will negotiate with the officers and employees associations. This IBA consists of 12 public sector banks (excluding RBI), 10 private sector banks and 7 foreign banks.

RBI was created as an autonomous body under 1934 Act. It is under the Ministry of

Finance, Govt. of India. Total RBI officers/ employees as on 31/3/2023 are 13,817.

Top Management consists of 21 persons including Governor, Dy. Governors, Executive Directors and Chief financial officer.

Governor's Monthly basic pay is Rs.2.5 lakhs
Class I officers' is Rs.99, 750/-
Class III – Rs.55,700/-
Class IV – Rs.37,700/-

Wage Revision was done

1/11/1987,
1/7/1993,
1/4/1998,
1/11/2002,
1/11/2007,
1/11/2012,
1/11/2017

RBI employees' pension scheme is governed by Pension Regulations 1990. But this is not applicable to those who were appointed after 1/1/2012 and they are covered under Defined Contributory Pension Scheme. They are getting pension from pension fund. The corpus fund is said to be more than 4,000 crores.

Legal Battle:

They got pension revision as and when pay was revised. But on the basis of a directive from MoF, RBI issued an order stopping pension revision on the basis of pay revision. This order was challenged before the Division Bench of Bombay High Court by RBI retirees. The Division Bench quashed the orders and directed RBI to revise the pension as per pay revision. The Division Bench stated that the Government cannot issue order arbitrarily without consulting the RBI governor and its board. The bench also said that when lakhs of Central Government and State Govt.

pensioners' pension is revised on the basis of pay revision, Government can't deny the same to the RBI pensioners. This was challenged before Supreme Court by RBI. SC upheld the Bombay HC judgement and directed to implement the same. But it took 10 years to get justice.

So, MoF was compelled to issue order on 5/3/2019. According to this order pension was revised even to the past pensioners but the date of effect was prospective only and no arrears were paid.

On the same lines, now MoF issued the order on 21/6/2023. The employees got the weightage of 10% of pay + DA which worked out of a multiplication factor of 1.63 from 1/11/2017 and the agreement was reached in December 2021. The same weightage of 1.63 multiplication factor was extended to pensioners but **prospectively without arrears**.

Their quantum of pension is the same as that of Central Government. Family Pension is 30% pay with a minimum pension of Rs.3500/- and a maximum of Rs.24,495/-

When the Government denies justice there is no other way but to knock the doors of judiciary though delay is inevitable.

Our case is different because,

Pay is paid by BSNL

And pension is paid by Central Govt. under the same rules of C.G. employees

Hence, we demand pension revision without pay revision

[Text of the Voice message given by Com. DG on 24-6-2023 through Whatsapp groups.]

DELIGHTFUL WORDS FROM VISAKHAPATNAM

[Everyone who participated in the Visakhapatnam AIC in December 2022 had only to sweet words to describe the event. We wrote about it. Now we are delighted to see that the Reception Committee has got audited its accounts by a Chartered Accountant. Surplus fund of Rs 14 lakhs is transferred to the District Association raising its fund to Rs 22 lakhs kept for purchasing an office accommodation. Below, we reproduce the Circular from the GS of Reception Committee for AIC, winding up the work..... ..Editor.]

As all of you are aware, I need not repeat as to how Visakhapatnam was selected for this prestigious and gigantic event. After thorough deliberations in the special GB meeting on 10th May, 2022, we unanimously accepted this tough and challenging responsibility, as a privilege to host about 1500 estimated delegate fraternity around the country for three days. I recall the quote, of then all India president Sri Ramankutty, through his editorial that, "The leaders and delegates will meet in the 'city of destiny', to decide their destiny."

Without losing any time after the GB meeting we jumped into action. Myself, President, Treasurer and Sri KVD Swamy assumed key roles. Before the GB meeting of 10th May 2022, I requested Sri. MR Patnaik, an occasional visitor till then, to attend the meeting and guide us the path ahead. Fortunately he obliged our request, attended the meeting, reviewed the whole situation and voluntarily started working on full time basis, sharing our burden and guiding us day and night with his experience and expertise. In addition to our schedule of attending association office on Tuesdays and Saturdays, we started meeting every Thursday for AIC purpose. First two months we fully concentrated on finance, seeking donations only from our DOT/BSNL retired/working fraternity. Parallely, we formed about 10 committees drafting specific responsibilities, and each committee headed by one of our resourceful colleagues carefully selected for the purpose. Our President, myself, Treasurer, and most resourceful Sri K V D Swamy along with Shri M R Patnaik formed the core group for 24/7 functioning. Subsequently Sri SVSN Murthy, PVSS Sastry and P Ch Naidu joined the core group. Second full pledged GB

meeting was held on 21-8-2022 in presence of then CS Shri Varaprasad and CWC member Shri RSN Murthy, to review the status in detail, and to appraise and motivate the members. Third and final GB meeting was held on 15th Nov, 2022 in which mainly the shortage of funds and manpower was discussed. A dress rehearsal interaction and training session was held with volunteer work force and committee heads on 19th Nov 2022.

To take off, and move on such an expensive task, mobilization of finance was not only vital and crucial, but also very difficult, as all of us being senior citizens with humble background. We were continuously interacting and corresponding with CHQ leaders for their share, and our core group held a meeting at Rajahmundry on 14th Oct, 2022 with then CS/CP and CWC member Shri RSN Murthy. Most of our Visakhapatnam district comrades quickly honored our appeal, enthusiastically risen to the occasion, and liberally contributed, which gave us confidence and strength to pay advances. With the concerted efforts of then CS/CP, we started receiving contributions from other divisions of AP circle. Our Telangana comrades also contributed considerably with a bonhomie oneness feeling of combined circle. Few of our resourceful members, I am not naming, took personal interest to persuade and motivate colleagues all over their erstwhile places of service, to contribute for this noble cause. Details of receipts and expenditure for AIC, duly audited by chartered accountant is enclosed separately.

As per the mandatory requirement, a reception committee was formed with 20 members including district secretaries of CC, VZM and EG

districts and CWC member Shri RSN Murthy. Shri M R Patnaik functioned as Chairman of reception committee and Shri. K Somasundara Rao, as General Secretary. About 150 volunteers rendered their services in various disciplines. Prior to a fortnight of the conference, about 15 hard working comrades including core group started functioning daily. Shri Baburao encountered with a health issue necessitating elective surgery. Knowing that his role was so crucial and cannot be substituted, he determined to continue with temporary respite. While his utmost integrity and spirited love towards his work, made him to see through, Shri KVD Swamy helped him in medical care. During the conference, for about five days, he did not hesitate to camp at the venue along with the core group. All the committee heads, reception committee members and volunteers, did wonderful work with full commitment and dedication, which earned laurels from all quarters for making the event a memorable history. All the delegates, circle secretaries, CHQ leaders were so exuberant at the arrangements made, they were unanimous in declaring the event historic, and grand success, accomplished "Never before and Ever after". The jubilant CHQ's appreciation through its Editorial in post meeting JAN-FEB Pensioners Patrika, reflects the mega scale of our united victory.

We were very aggressive in collection of contributions, but careful in spending, without compromising the requirements and quality. Our journey started with deficit, turned surplus at the end, due to hard work, careful and meticulous planning and dedicated execution by everyone. Once in surplus financial position, we presented gift bags as a conference memory to all the donors wherever they are including other divisions. As per the optimistic prediction and contemplation of our President, we conducted a success general body meet on 21st Dec, 2022 and felicitated the donors contributing above Rs. 10000 and honored few volunteers who had proactively rendered outstanding services. Primarily, we extend our profound thanks to then CHQ President Shri. PS Ramankutty, and

General Secretary Shri P Gangadhara Rao, for their ceaseless cooperation, guidance and response from the take off to the end of the event. We thank our then CP and CS for their constant monitoring and proactive struggle in collecting contributions from other divisions, motivating them that this is the responsibility of Andhra Circle. We thank Shri Bhupathi garu of Subbalakshmi Kalyana Mantapam for his love towards BSNL and his unstinted cooperation in all respects, throughout at the venue. We also thank Shri M Satya Prasad present DGM, Vizag for his brotherly attitude towards retired colleagues, guiding and helping us in the crucial aspect of arranging accommodation at competitive pricing. We specially thank Shri K Ravibabu, who took active role in arranging medical camp at the venue, by coordinating with various hospitals and personally staying at the venue for full two days. We are deeply thankful to all the team leaders for accepting the responsibility, attending regular review meetings with their valuable suggestions. During the conference, all the team leaders and some volunteers monitored their assignments round the clock for four days, by staying at the venue as warranted by the situation. Within ourselves, without naming individuals, I thank the district executive and every member of the Association who worked tirelessly exhibiting spirit of unity, and making the once in a lifetime opportunity a great success by creating history, and leaving sweet memories for rest of our life.

Once again while thanking the Chairman and members of the Reception Committee and team leaders, I as general secretary of AIC reception committee and on behalf of District executive Visakhapatnam, hereby declare that the surplus funds of AIC, stands transferred to AIBSNLPWA Visakhapatnam district account. I also declare that the reception committee stands dissolved.

JAIHIND.

(K Somasundara Rao)
General Secretary, 4th Triennial AIC
AIBSNLPWA at Visakhapatnam.

8-7-2023

VISAKHAPATNAM AIC: RECEPTION COMMITTEE

Audted Accounts

EXPENDITURE

INCOME

Accommodation: Hotel rooms	2355652.00	Delegate Fee	1553600.00
Amenities for Functional Hall	141500.00	Donation from Circle	99995.00
Bank Charges	452.50	Levy fee from CHQ	2448295.00
Control Room, Dormitory	118000.00	Printing charges from CHQ	39000.00
Conveyance charges	129770.00	Donation from	
Electricity charges for Hall	4000.00	other districts & VSKP	3520589.28
Flower decoration	6900.00		
Food & Catering charges	1652000.00		
Food Expenses	148760.00		
Gift Bags and Badgeds	475850.00		
Gift memontos	33125.00		
Hall and snack charges	725000.00		
Rental charges	24740.00		
Printing and Stationery	124067.00		
Vehicle hire charges	210700.00		
Towards Books preparation	7500.00		
Audit fee	12500.00		
Excess tfrd to Distrct Assn	1490962.78		
TOTAL	7661479.28	TOTAL	7661479.28

AUDITOR'S REPORT

We have examined the attached Balance Sheet as at and Income and Expenditure Account of 4th Triennial All India Conference of AIBSNLPWA at Visakhapatnam for the period ended at 15th June 2023 and report that:

We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit.

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us the Balance Sheet as at 15th June 2023 and the Income and Expenditure Account for the period ended 15th June 2023 give

BALNAGU & CO

10-14-18/3,4,5

Vizag Towers, Visakhapatnam 530003

- a) A true and fair view of the 4th Triennial All India Conference of AIBSNLPWA, Visakhapatnam's affairs as at 15th June 2023 and
 b) A true and fair view of the Income & Expenditure Account for the period ended 15th June 2023.

Sd/-

B Machi Raju, Proprietor,
 M/s Balnagu & Co, Chartered Accountants,
 FRN 000366S, M. No. 027239

21-06-2023

CGHS : CONTRIBUTION, PAY & WARD ENTITLEMENT

Revised mapping of Pay Scales

DOT OM No. 4-(12)-PAT-Part I Dated 3-7-2023

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Office Memorandum No. 4-12(12)/2018-PAT- Part (1) dated 01.07.2019 on above subject vide which the revised mapping of IDA and CDA pay scales was issued for deciding the rate of monthly CGHS contribution and entitlement of wards in private hospitals empanelled under CGHS in respect of retired BSNL/MTNL employees who receive pension from Central Civil Estimates and avail CGHS facilities.

2. The entitlement of wards in Private Hospitals empanelled under CGHS has been revised w.e.f. 28.10.2022 by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare vide its O.M. No. S.11011/11/2016-CGHS(P)/EHS dated 28.10.2022. This has necessitated corresponding modification in Annexure-B of the said O.M. dated 01.07.2019.

3. Accordingly, Annexures to the said O.M. dated 01.07.2019 stands modified w.e.f. 28.10.2022, as enclosed.

4. This O.M. and mapping is applicable only for the Combined Service Optees who retired from BSNL/MTNL with IDA pay scale

5. This O.M. and mapping is not applicable for pro-rata pensioners who retired from DoT under CDA pay scale. Also, as per guidelines issued from Directorate of CGHS, MoH&FW, ward entitlement is based on the **last basic pay** and CGHS subscription is based on the **pay scale** as mentioned in the Pension Payment Order (PPO) of a particular retiree. Accordingly, ward entitlement and CGHS subscription in case of pro-rata pensioners of BSNL/MTNL will continue to be decided based on last pay drawn in DoT before absorption, as mentioned in their respective PPO while retiring from DoT, Govt. of India as already conveyed vide this office O.M. No. 4-12(12)/2018-PAT dated 08.09.2021. Hence, no mapping of IDA/CDA scale is required in case of pro-rata pensioners.

WARD ENTITLEMENT

For those who retired before 1-1-2007

BSNL IDA Pay	Ward entitled
Upto Rs. 11875.00	General Ward
Rs. 11876- 15475	Semi Private Ward
Rs. 15476 and above	Private Ward

For those who retired after 1-1-2007

Retired during 1-1-2007 - 9-6-2013	Retired after 10-6-2013	Ward
BSNL IDA Pay	BSNL IDA Pay	Ward
Upto Rs. 26060	Rs. 27510.00	General Ward
Rs. 26070-33960	Rs. 27520-35850	Semi Private Ward
Rs. 33970 and above	Rs. 35860 and above	Private Ward

CDA/IDA correspondence for deciding Monthly Contributions for availing CGHS facility in Case of BSNL retirees (Combined Service Pensioners)

Srl	BSNL Scale		V CPC	Gr.Pay	VII CPC	CGHS Fees
	Pre 2007	From 1.1.07	Scale	VI CPC	Level	
1	4000-5800	7760-13320	2550-3200	1300.00	1 to 5	Rs 250 PM
2	4060-5935	7840-14700	2610-3540	1400.00	1 to 5	Rs 250 PM
3	4100-5975	7900-14880	2650-4000	1650.00	1 to 5	Rs 250 PM
4	4250-6200	8150-15340	2750-4400	1800.00	1 to 5	Rs 250 PM
5	4550-6650	8700-16840	3050-4590	1900.00	1 to 5	Rs 250 PM
6	4720-6970	9020-17430	3200-4900	2000.00	1 to 5	Rs 250 PM
7	5700-8100	10900-20400	4000-6000	2400.00	1 to 5	Rs 250 PM
8	6550-9325	12520-23440	4500-7000	2800.00	1 to 5	Rs 250 PM
9	7100-10100	13600-25420	5000-8000	4200.00	Level 6	Rs 450 PM
10	7600-11175	14900-27850	5500-9000	4200.00	Level 6	Rs 450 PM
11a	8570-12245	16370-30630	6500-10500	*4200.00	Level 6	Rs 450 PM
	(For Non-EXe.)16390-33830					
12a	9850-14600	16400-40500	6500-10500	*4200.00	Level 6	Rs 450 PM
	(Fees of Rs 450 is applicable for Srl. 9 to 12.a for employees retired prior to 1-1-2006)					
11b	8570-12245	16370-30630	6500-10500	*4600.00	7 to 11	Rs 650 PM
	(For Non-EXe.)16390-33830					
12b	9850-14600	16400-40500	6500-10500	*4600.00	7 to 11	Rs 650 PM
13	11875-17275	20600-46500	7500-12000	4800.00	7 to 11	Rs 650 PM
14	13000-18250	24900-50500	8000-13500	5400.00	7 to 11	Rs 650 PM
15	14500-18700	29100-54500	10000-15200	6600.00	7 to 11	Rs 650 PM
	(Fees of Rs 650 is applicable for Srl. 11b -15 for employees retired after 1-1-2006)					
16	16000-20800	32900-58000	12000-16500	7600.00	12 & above	Rs 1000 PM
17	17500-22300	36600-62000	14300-18300	8700.00	12 & above	Rs 1000 PM
18.	All scales above in Srl 17			above 8700.00	12 & above	Rs 1000 PM

* The Grade Pay of Rs 4200 for 6500-10500 fixed initially was revised to Rs 4600 vide MoF DOE OM dated 13-11-2009.



INITIATIVES BY DOP&PW

**Address of V.Srinivas, IAS Secretary, DoP&PW
at the Pre-Retirement Counseling Workshop
and Pension Adalat, at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi**

1. At the outset, let me congratulate each one of you for your services to the Nation through your long career marked by several achievements. There is so much that each of you can look back with an immense sense of pride and satisfaction.

2. Today is a very significant day for the Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare. The Department has successfully convened the 50th PRC Workshop along with the 8th Pension Adalat today at Vigyan Bhavan along with an Exhibition by all Pension Disbursing Banks. Hon'ble MoS PP Dr. Jitendra Singhji has conveyed his good wishes to all officials participating in today's event. The subject "*Improving Pensioners Welfare*" was a part of DPPW's Chintan Shivir. Hon'ble Prime Minister had shared its vast experience in governance, urged officials that impersonal governance models need to find life through deep personal commitment.

3. The PRC workshop and the Pension Adalat are important steps in implementing the directions of Hon'ble Prime Minister. My congratulations to Shri Sanjiv Mathur Additional Secretary DPPW and his team of dedicated officers who have strived tirelessly to curate today's event.

4. The objective of today's PRC workshop is to prepare the Retiring Officials for their post-retirement life, to enable a deeper understanding of the procedures and interaction with Government after retirement. Retirement envisages a transition from nearly 3-31/2 decades in Government, and an official needs to be oriented adequately to ensure an orderly transition.

5. Pension gives retiring officials a sense of financial security in old age, should be sanctioned timely, with pay revisions and DA arrears being applicable as soon as they are due. In my interactions with Pension Welfare Associations, two issues always

stood out — (i) *timely disbursement of pension* and (ii) *quality health care*. Both these issues have been taken up for discussion in today's PRC workshop.

6. The DPPW has focused on the following subjects:
a. Formalities necessary for timely payment of retirement benefits

b. Filling up forms on Bhavishya

c. Briefing on Integrated Pensioners Portal and Bhavishya

d. CGHS/ Fixed Medical Allowances after Retirement

e. Income Tax Incentives and Banking Facilities for Senior Citizens/ Pensioners

f. DLC, Face Authentication, Pensioner Associations

g. ANUBHAV—the platform for showcasing outstanding work done during service.

7. *The first step is to complete the formalities necessary for timely payment of retirement benefits.*

The session on Filling up Pension Forms on Bhavishya is a guiding session on the subject. To monitor timely disbursement, the CGA had launched the "Dirghayu" App in the last PRC. Bhavishya is amongst Government of India's top e-service delivery portals and has ensured end to end digitization of pension processing and payment.

8. *The second step to understand the Integrated Pensioners Portal.*

The Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare in collaboration with Pension Disbursing Banks has operationalized the Integrated Pensioners Portal which provides a range of services to Pensioners. The SBI and Canara Bank are the front runners in integrating their Pension Seva Portal with Bhavishya. With this integration, pensioners can get their pension slip, status of submission of life certificate and form 16 through the Integrated Pensioners Portal.

9. *The third step is to submit an Anubhav Write up.* It is important for every Retiring official to document his contribution to governance and I would urge each one of you to submit a write up of your decades of experience on the Anubhav Portal. The best write-ups receive the Anubhav Awards. Further, the Anubhav Awardees Speak Webinar series provides opportunities to several Award Winners to share their experiences attended by massive audiences.

10. *The fourth step is to understand the hospitals and CGHS benefits.* CGHS plays a vital part in quality health care for pensioners with coverage from orthopedics to neurology, general medicine to surgery. Hospitals have dedicated wards and treatment facilities for pensioners. I have visited the RML and Safdarjang Hospitals to understand the facilities available to Pensioners for OPD and IPD care, both hospitals have organized structures for CGHS Pensioners. The CGHS has also undertaken a number of systemic reforms in their packages to ensure improved health care for pensioners.

11. *The fifth step is to understand the Income Tax law for Pensioners and Senior Citizens.* As also it is important to understand the financing instruments available for pensioners. I would urge each of the participants to visit the exhibition curated by the Pension Disbursing Banks in the Vigyan Bhavan foyer.

12. Every Pensioner has to submit an annual certificate of existence. This is simplified by the Digital Life Certificate and the Face Authentication App. 30 Lacs Pensioners availed the DLC in 2022, and in 2023 it is expected that the number will rise to 50 lacs.

13. Pensioner Grievances are filed on CPENGRAMS portal and addressed on a time basis. Grievances are categorized and nodal and appellate authorities are well defined. The timeline for redressal of grievances on CPENGRAMS is 30 days. Grievances can be filed through the call

center operationalized by Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare. Grievances often relate to delayed disbursement of pensions and interpretational issues under various rules administered by the Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare. Let me assure you that each grievance is accorded highest important and all efforts are made to provide redressal. Grievances of long standing nature are taken up in the Pension Adalat The Pension Adalat provides an interface between the pensioner and the government.

14. The Rules administered by the Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare are the following:

- a. CCS Pension Rules 2021
- b. CCS Implementation of NPS Rules 2021
- c. CCS Extra-Ordinary Pension Rules 2023

15. The Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare publishes monthly reports on CPENGRAMS and pending PPO's which are circulated to all Departments/ Ministries. The publication of data sets has enabled timely processing of PPO's.

16. Pensioner Welfare Associations are operational in all major cities and State Capitals and helpful in exchanging information on the challenges faced by pensioners. For those officials who wish to join a Pensioner Welfare Association, the detailed list is available on DPPW portal.

17. I sincerely hope that this PRC Workshop will prepare each one of you for retirement. If you have doubts, you are always welcome to reach out to any of the senior officials of DoP&PW for clarifications.

18. Wishing each one of you a happy, healthy and peaceful retirement where pension benefits are sanctioned on time, digital portals provide ease of living post retirement and continued engagement with government is seamless and simple.

FILE & LIFE

INDEFINITE WAIT BY A 60 YEARS OLD LADY FOR FAMILY PENSION

It is a typical case of utter negligence and callousness adopted by authorities towards hapless members of deceased pensioners. On 28-4-2011 the Department of Pension issued a detailed order making it quite clear that unmarried/divorced/widowed daughters of central govt. Pensioners are entitled to family pension, without any age limit. The order was got extended to BSNL pensioners. Based on the said order Late Com. R Ramachandra Rao, the then DS of our West Godavari Unit, brought the following case to my knowledge and I, as the then GS of AIBSNLPWA, took it up with CCA Kerala. CCA replied that original pension was granted to Late Mr. Sathyanarayana by Directorate as per the then existing rules and hence the family pension should also be endorsed by Directorate only. CCA Kerala forwarded our letter with available documents to Directorate in 2012. Remaining story is narrated below. It may be still another FILE for the people in Sanchar Bhavan. But it is LIFE for the lady. Letters are same. But, meaning is different. Impact is different. I congratulate Mr. Vijayakumar, brother of the applicant lady for persistently pursuing the case to help his sister. ... P S Ramankutty

The Case:

One Shri. Maradani Sathyanarayana was Financial Advisor and Chief Accounts Officer in the office of General Manager, Dept of Telecom, Ernakulam District, Kerala. He retired from service on 30-9-1976. After retirement he settled in his native place at Eluru in West Godavari District of Andhra. He expired on 23-5-1978. After his death, his wife Smt. Annapurna, was granted family pension as per rules. She expired on 13-5-2010. They had an unmarried daughter, Ms. Maradani Usha Rani. In 2012 she applied for family pension pointing out the new rules.

Being a very old case, nobody in Sanchar Bhavan had time to trace the old records. Wife of the deceased Pensioner was getting family pension at the rate of 30% of his pay. Daughter is also entitled to same amount. Rules are very clear. Her application for Family Pension was lying there for long. Our Association wrote letters; but in vain. The lady approached an MP from AP who also wrote letters; but no result.

Then, after waiting for five years, the claimant approached the High Court of Andhra in 2019. On 22-8-2019 in WP 11803 of 2019, the High Court directed DOT to consider the application of the lady and pass appropriate orders within **three weeks**. Four have passed since then.

Anyway, the File started moving after HC order. Directorate intimated the lady that her application was being processed. On 10-1-2020 the Directorate asked CCAAP to conduct a physical enquiry and collect some documents from the lady. The CCA collected all documents and forwarded them to Accounts Officer (PFP Section) of Directorate vide their letter dated 15-6-2022. Another year has passed. But no order was issued by Directorate despite Court order. AIBSNLPWA once again took up the matter with Directorate.

Now, after sleeping on the file for four years since High Court Order, the Directorate is asking the lady to submit bank statements for 16 years. Even the Bank will not give it. It is not required under Pension Rule. Violating the Pension Rules, Directorate is asking the lady to produce copies of Income Tax Returns filed for 2009-2010, 2010-11 etc. The unemployed lady had no income at all. She has already submitted a certificate signed by SDM to that effect. Still, the poor lady should submit an affidavit signed before Metropolitan Magistrate!!!

If Circles violate rules we have to approach the Directorate for remedy. If people in Directorate act with utter disregard to Court Order, where should the pensioner/family pensioner go? The unemployed lady is pushed to Court again.

**PARENTS- IN- LAW CAN BE
NOMINATED AS
DEPENDANTS
OF CGHS BENEFICIARIES**

**CGHS OM NO. H.11020/2/2023-EHS
dated 26 -7-2023**

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Office memorandum No. 4(1)-18/63-H, dated 03.03.1987, issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, whereby a female Central Government employee was given the choice to include either her parents or parents-in-law for the purpose of availing the benefits under Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) subject to the conditions of dependence and residence, etc., being satisfied.

2. The matter has been reviewed and the undersigned is directed to convey the approval of Competent Authority to say that hereinafter, both male and female Central Government employees will have the choice to include either their parents or parents-in-law for the purpose of availing the benefits under CGHS subject to the conditions of dependence and residence, etc., being satisfied.

3. The contents of Para 2 above shall be added to the definition of the term 'Family' for CGHS benefits.

4. This OM shall supersede all other OMs issued in relation to this subject.

9.64 LAKH VACANCIES

Media News on 27-7-2023:

On 26-7-2023, in a written response to an unstarred question by TMC MP Mala Roy and TRS MP Nama Nageswara Rao, the Minister of State at the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, Jitendra Singh, said that as on March 1, 2023, there were 964,359 vacant posts across government departments. Singh wrote that these figures are as per the annual report of the Pay Research Units of the Department of Expenditure.

Singh's reply said further that the central ministries, departments, central public sector undertakings, autonomous bodies (including health and education institutes, public sector banks, etc.) recruit employees "either directly or through recruitment agencies" like the Staff Selection Commission, Union Public Service Commission, Railway Recruitment Board, Institute of Banking Personnel Selection, etc. The response claimed that the "filling up of vacant posts in various ministries and departments is a continuous process."

The Department of Personnel and Training, the response said, has been directing ministries and departments of the Union government, "from time to time, to fill up vacant posts in a time bound manner."

Singh's response did not contain year-wise details of how vacancies were filled, something that the MPs had asked for.

Unemployment continues to be a major issue ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. In 2017, India's unemployment rate reached a 45-year high at 6.1% in 2017. It was at 8.11% as of April 2023 according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

CONFUSION OVER

GROSS PENSION, NET PENSION, REDUCED PENSION

A BSNL Retiree, migrated to SAMPAN, received following SMS on his mobile phone on 1-8-2023:

*“Dear Sir/Madam,
In respect of your PPO number ending xxxxx
for the month of July 2023*

<i>Gross pension –</i>	<i>37678</i>
<i>Reduced pension</i>	<i>12329,</i>
<i>Add Dearness relief</i>	<i>205.60,</i>
<i>Add FMA</i>	<i>0.00</i>
<i>Add Arrears</i>	<i>Nil</i>
<i>Less Income tax</i>	
<i>deducted Including cess –</i>	<i>0.00</i>
<i>Less Recovery –</i>	<i>0.00</i>
<i>Net pension –</i>	<i>37678</i>

*has been credited in your SB Account ending
xxxx on 1-8-2023.”*

Calculation was correct. But he was confused. He knows that his Basic Pension is Rs. 12329. Same amount is shown as ‘**Reduced Pension**’. The word “**Reduced**” has confused the pensioner.

Seniors, above the age of 80 years, get additional pension and DR thereon. It is not shown in the messages to them .

The CCA office says that these SMS are designed and generated (de-generated?) by Directorate and they cannot correct the format.

In the PPO the pension details are shown as

a. Amount of monthly pension before commutation

b. Fraction/amount of pension commuted,(CV) if any

c. Reduced monthly pension after commutation.

[In Old days instead of Reduced Pension it was shown as Residual Pension.]

The confusion can be avoided if the SMS format is redesigned to show as:

1. Basic Pension :	xxxxx
2. Add additional pension:	0.00
3. Add DR rate:	205.6%
4. Add DR on addl pension:	0.00
5. Add FMA	0.00
6. Add: Arrears	0.00
7. Gross pension:	xxxxx
8. Less TDS:	0.00
9. Less CV :	0.00
10. Total Recovery	0.00
11. Net Pension credited	xxxxx

Will Directorate look into this simple matter to avoid unwanted confusion please?

GOVERNMENT IS DISTURBED !!!

Press Release issued by Press Information Bureau on 2-8-2023 says:

Govt disbursed over Rs 2,41,000 crore pension to more than 65.74 lakh pensioners including +20.93 lakh family pensioners during 2022-23, says Dr Jitendra Singh

On the basis of the information provided by the Central Pension Accounting Office (for Civil Pensioners), Office of Controller General of Defence Accounts (for Defence Pensioners), Department of Telecommunications (for Telecom Pensioners), Railway Board (for Railway Pensioners), and Department of Posts (for Postal Pensioners), the details regarding the pensioners and family pensioners receiving pension and expenditure involved during the year 2022-23 under the Union Government are given as under:

Srl.	Department	No of Pensioners	No of Family pensioners	Expenditure in Crore
1.	Civil Pensioners	780509	361476	40811.28
2.	Defence	2331388	835043	125269.42
3.	Telecom	317992	120766	12448.00
4.	Railways	856058	669710	55034.00
5.	Posts	195298	106467	8214.85
	Total	44,81,245	20,93,462	241,777.55

The amount of minimum pension/ family pension under the Central Government is Rupees 9,000 per month. There is no proposal to increase the amount of minimum pension/ family pension. The pensioners/ family pensioners are entitled to dearness relief, based on changes in prices, from time to time.

This information was given by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

Government Data can change any time. When the Minister says that there is no proposal to increase the amount of minimum pension, it is an indication that Government has, at present, no proposal to set up the 8th Central Pay Commission. That position also can change. When Shri Pranab Mukherjee was the Finance Minister he made a strong statement in Rajya Sabha, answering a question from Com. Dipen Ghosh MP, that government did not want to set up next Pay Commission. But, within three months Government announced appointment of the Fourth Central Commission. That is history.

DOUBT CLEARED !

Question answered in Rajya Sabha
on 1-8-2023

No. 1326: Shri A. D. Singh:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

- a) Whether the Government intends to assure its employees the pension of 40 per cent to 45 per cent of the last drawn salary replacing the existing market linked pension, if so, the details thereof;
- b) Whether the Committee constituted by Government to review existing new pension

scheme for the Government employees has given its report; and

c) If so, the findings thereof and by when Government is going to review the existing scheme?

ANSWER

Minister Of State For Finance
(Shri Pankaj Choudhary)

(a) No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise

LEADERS OF THE MOVEMENT

District level Leaders elected recently

<u>District:</u>	<u>President:</u>	<u>Secretary:</u>	<u>Treasurer:</u>
AP-Visakhapatnam	K Chandrasekhar	K SomasundaraRao	P Baburao
BH-Katihar	Shankar Jha	P K Sah	Nathuni Sah
BH-Patna	Kaushalendra Prasad	A K Chaudhary	A K Singh
HP-Solan	V P Kaushik	B D Sharma	Ram Dass Sharma
JD-Dhanbad	Jai Ram Sharma	Shyam Nandan Pd	Prakash Kr Sinha
JD-Jamshedpur	V K Jaipur	Lal Bihari	A N Gupta
JD-Ramgarh	Sikandar Mandal	Mahesh Mahto	
MP-Jabalpur	R K Tiwari	Saket Shukla	N D Paraswani
PB-Ferozpur	Bhagwan Dass	Shagan Lal	Des Raj
TN-Salem West	M Govindarajan	R Balaraman	M Ramasamy
UPE-Jhansi	Dhirendra Kr. Saksena	Virendra Kr. Avasthi	Dhanashyam Das
UPW-Tundla	Jaikishore	Nathuram	R K Satsangh

CHQ Email ID:

We confront some problem in opening emails to our CHQ. Hence we have created a new Email ID. It is chqaibsnlpwa@gmail.com
Kindly note.

CGHS DOCTORS PRESCRIBE GENERIC MEDICINES.

On 4th August 2023, in Lok Sabha Dr Mansukhi Mandviya, Minister for Health and Family Welfare gave the following statement as a reply a starred question from Shri C Lalrosanga MP.

Question: Will the Minister of Health and Family Welfare be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note that CGHS Wellness Centres including in the North-Eastern States like CGHS Wellness Centre, Dispur, Guwahati, the doctors refuse to give prescribed medicines advised by the doctors of private empanelled hospitals and instead give alternative medicines as per their own choice citing that the cost of prescribed medicines are higher;

(b) if so, whether there are any guidelines issued by the Government which allow CMOs of CGHS Wellness Centres including in North-Eastern States to refuse to give the prescribed medicines advised by specialized doctors of private empanelled hospitals; and

(c) the manner in which the Government monitor these sensitive issues in the North-Eastern States and take steps for the wellbeing of the CGHS card holders?

Statement from the Minister: (a) to (c) To promote generic medicines, Government Medical Officers, time and again, have been instructed to prescribe generic medicines only and desist from prescribing branded medicines. Director General of Health Services in May, 2023 has reiterated directions for all doctors in Central Government Hospitals/ CGHS Wellness Centers/ Polyclinics to prescribe generic

medicines only, failing which attracts suitable action. However, Specialists/ Doctors at CGHS empanelled hospitals at times prescribe branded medicines. Medical Officer at CGHS Wellness Centres do not provide alternative medicines. Only generic medicines having identical formulation and therapeutic effects are provided to beneficiaries in place of branded medicines prescribed by doctors of private empanelled Hospitals. In case suitable generic medicine or any other drug of same composition is unavailable at Wellness Centre, the prescribed medicine is indented through Authorized Local Chemist (ALC) and issued to the beneficiary. CGHS procures generic medicines in bulk through Medical Stores Organization. This mechanism of medicine distribution is followed across the country including North-Eastern States. Strengthening and reform of any scheme is a continuous and dynamic process. To ensure optimal functionality to facilitate seamless delivery of health care services and prompt redressal of grievances within the CGHS system, Local Advisory Committee(s) at Wellness Centre level and Zonal Advisory Committee(s) at Additional Director level have been re-constituted in all CGHS cities including in North-Eastern States. Beneficiaries may raise the grievance related to issue of medicines before these Committees for redressal

Personal experience: I have prostate problem. Doctor prescribed Urimax D tablet, one every day night. For some time I purchased it for Rs 26.00 per tablet. Then I went to Pradhan Mantri's Jan Aushdhi Medical Shop and purchased its generic version, Tamsulosin D. It costs Rs 2 per tablet. This the "Indian Pharma looting". P S Ramankutty

RATES OF DEARNESS RELIEF

BSNL Pensioners with 2007 based Pension			Other Pensioners with 2017 based Pension		
Year	Quarter	Rate (%)	Year	Quarter	Rate (%)
2017	Jan-March	119.5	2017	Jan-March	0
2017	Apr -June	117.1	2017	Apr -June	-1.1
2017	July-Sept	119.0	2017	July-Sept	-0.2
2017	Oct - Dec.	124.3	2017	Oct - Dec.	2.2
2018	Jan-March	126.9	2018	Jan-March	3.4
2018	Apr -June	127.2	2018	Apr -June	3.5
2018	July-Sept	128.0	2018	July-Sept	3.8
2018	Oct - Dec.	135.6	2018	Oct - Dec.	7.3
2019	Jan-March	138.8	2019	Jan-March	8.8
2019	Apr -June	141.4	2019	Apr -June	10.0
2019	July-Sept	146.7	2019	July-Sept	12.4
2019	Oct - Dec.	152.0	2019	Oct - Dec.	14.8
2020	Jan-March	157.3	2020	Jan-March	17.2
2020	Apr -June	160.7	2020	Apr -June	18.7
2020	July-Sept	159.9	2020	July-Sept	18.4
2020	Oct - Dec.	165.4	2020	Oct - Dec.	20.9
2021	Jan-March	171.7	2021	Jan-March	23.7
2021	Apr -June	170.5	2021	Apr -June	23.2
2021	July-Sept	173.8	2021	July-Sept	24.7
2021	Oct - Dec.	179.3	2021	Oct - Dec.	27.2
2022	Jan-March	184.1	2022	Jan-March	29.4
2022	Apr -June	185.3	2022	Apr -June	30.0
2022	July-Sept	190.8	2022	July-Sept	32.5
2022	Oct - Dec.	195.8	2022	Oct - Dec.	34.8
2023	Jan-March	201.2	2023	Jan-March	37.2
2023	Apr -June	202.3	2023	Apr -June	37.7
2023	July-Sept	205.6	2023	July-Sept	39.2
2023	Oct - Dec		2023	Oct - Dec	

GS VISITS SOME BRANCHES DURING JUNE 2023



CHENNAI STR GENERAL BODY ON 13-6-2023



CHENNAI TD GENERAL BODY ON 14-6-2023



SALEM WEST DISTRICT CONFERENCE ON 22-6-2023



NAGERCOIL GENERAL BODY ON 24-6-2023

PENSIONERS PATRIKA

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 2023

Published
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COM. VARAPRASD, GS AT TRIVNDRUM ON 25-6-2023



DISTRICT CONFERENCE OF VISAKHAPATNAM SSA
COM. V. VARAPRASD, GS ADDRESSING 25-7-2023

