



॥ सर्वभूतहिते रताः ॥

# All India Senior Citizens' Confederation (Central Council)

The Largest, Representative Organisation of Senior Citizens in India  
(Regn. No. MAH/302/03 Thane under Societies Registration Act, 1860)  
(Regn. No. : F/11854/ Thane under Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950)

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To,  
Hon'ble Minister of State Sri P. Balram Naik,  
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment,  
Government of India,  
New Delhi.

November 26, 2012

Respected Sir,

We are highly grateful to you for the courtesy extended to us when Dr.S.P. Kinjawadekar, Immediate Past President, and myself, President of All India Senior Citizens' Confederation called on you on November 21, 2012. We appreciate your kindly sparing time for discussing with us the issues and problems of Senior Citizens.

We brought to your kind notice that AISCCON is the Apex Body of Senior Citizens in our Country having presence in all States & UT's except Sikkim. We may submit that we are in the forefront of advocacy in all activities concerning the welfare of Senior Citizens.

To bring the Senior Citizens in the Country together and to give them an opportunity for articulating their concerns, we organize every year a two day National Conference in different parts of the Country. This year it was organized in Trivandrum, where more than 2800 delegates attended from all over India breaking all previous records. In addition to six technical sessions which were addressed by senior gerontologists from India and abroad, we also discussed at length matters of major concerns to Senior Citizens and 12 resolutions were unanimously adopted seeking their amelioration.

During discussion with you we emphasized some important issues particularly those dealing with the plight of the disadvantaged Senior Citizens who number around 70% of the 10 crore elders in our Country. They have neither social nor health security and in case of abandonment they are not assured even of a shelter during their last few years.

We brought to your notice that since population of senior citizens is increasing very fast the National Conference unanimously adopted a resolution asking for an exclusive ministry and/or a National Commission for Senior Citizens. It will serve the interests of the 10 crore older persons better.

We also submitted that to be able to communicate the policies and decisions of the Government to senior citizens right up to the grass root level it will be better to recognize a Senior Citizens Organisation as the National Association of Older Persons [NAOP]. This has been mandated in para 93 of the National Policy on Older Persons-1999. Since AISCCON is the Apex Body of Senior Citizens in our Country having presence in all States and UT's, it deserves to be recognized as the NAOP

At present women senior citizens are allowed 50% concession in railway fare while male senior citizens are denied this facility. We request that male senior citizens should also be granted this facility on the total train fare including that for passenger trains and the charges for Tatkal scheme. Moreover, considering that the 80+ are usually disabled Senior Citizens, they should be allowed one free accompanying attendant as in case of

the disabled persons. We request you to kindly use your influence on the Ministry for Railways to get above sanctioned.

We also brought to your notice that Senior Citizens suffer with various age related health problems and therefore, we urged that both the Central and the State Governments must provide health insurance on the lines of either the amended RSBY or Aarogyasri health insurance schemes and in case of pensioners various health care schemes such as CGHS, ESI etc should be merged into one scheme.

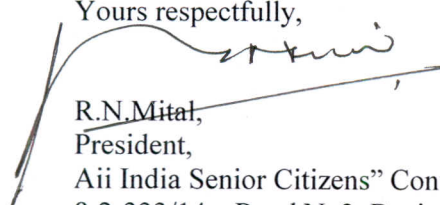
Another important resolution which was unanimously adopted, and we brought to your notice, was recommending a universal pension to all BPL Senior Citizens of Rs 2000 per month. Most of the other countries such as Nepal, Namibia China and Western Countries have already introduced such pensions. The present pension of Rs 200 is very very inadequate.

We also requested you to urge the Planning Commission not to dilute the recommendations of their Working Group on Social Welfare in any way. In fact they are largely based on the proposals of MOSJE only. They meet at least our minimum requirements except those concerning Health Insurance and the Old Age Pension.

Because of the paucity of time we could not discuss all our issues, I am therefore, enclosing the resolutions adopted unanimously by the 2800 delegates to the National Conference of Senior Citizens in Trivandrum held on November 2 & 3, 2012. . For your reference I am also attaching the recommendations made by the Working Group of the Planning Commission for the provisions to be made in the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan for the welfare of the Older persons.

We hope Sir, you will kindly look into our problems as reflected in the resolutions adopted by the National Conference.

With profound regards,  
Yours respectfully,



R.N.Mital,  
President,  
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