RAILWAYS SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE SOCIETY

CHANDIGARH, PANCHKULA & MOHALI

(Affiliated to Bharat Pensioners Samaj)

(Estd. 1991, Regd. No. 1881 – Under Registration of Societies Act), Website http://rscws.com

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No. RSCWS/ MoR / 2012-8

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Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Hon'ble Minister For Railways, GOI, (Camp: At Chandigarh)

Dear Sir,

Sub: Problems of Pensioners at Chandigarh, Panchkula & Mohali

We would like to draw your kind attention towards the following demands & problems of the Railway Pensioners residing in the Tri-city of Chandigarh

- 1. Upgrading of Railway Lock-up Dispensary Chandigarh
- 2. a) Empanelment of Private Multispecialty Hospitals by the Railways at Chandigarh Tri-City
 - b) Issue of Smart Cards Expeditious Implementation of Orders of MOR
- Issue of Revised PPOs to Pre-2006 Pensioners Non-Implementation of Orders of MOR /CRB
- 4. Companion in same class with old Pensioners without paying the difference of fare
- 5. Eligibility for RELHS of Widowed Daughter getting Family Pension (on expiry of both parents).
- 6. Eligibility for same Class of Complementary Passes for old & new Retirees - as for the employees.
- 7. Starting of third (Mid-Day) Shatabdi Express from Chandigarh & New Delhi to connect arrivals & departures of various Rajdhani Express trains at New Delhi.
- 8. Introduction of "Golden Temple Express" between Chandigarh & Amritsar so as to start from Chandigarh early morning & return by late evening.

A detailed Memorandum on the above issues, is submitted for your kind and favourable consideration with a request for an early decision thereon to ameliorate the sufferings of the Pensioners.

Thanking you in anticipation; With kind regards;

Yours truly,

(Sh. M.S. Batra) President, RSCWS

(Harchandan Singh), Secretary General, RSCWS.

Encl: One Memorandum

"Pension is not a bounty -- a grace or an Ex-gratia payment, but a payment for past services rendered" Supreme Court Please visit our Website www.rscws.com regularly - for up to date information of our activities & other information

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MEMORANDUM TO SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL, HON'BLE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS REGARDING: PROBLEMS OF PENSIONERS AT CHANDIGARH, PANCHKULA & MOHALI SUBMITTED BY RSCWS CHANDIGARH, AT CHANDIGARH ON 17TH NOVEMBER 2012

1. Upgrading of Railway Lock-up Dispensary as Railway Hospital at Chandigarh:

There is only one "Lock-up" Dispensary of Railways at Chandigarh – which opens only for three days in a week, lacks all medical facilities – creating serious problems for over 4000 Railway Beneficiaries (including Railway employees, Pensioners and their dependents. This number is ever rising due to introduction and extension of new trains to the city and extension of Railway line to Chandigarh and settling of more & more Pensioner in and around the city.

It is therefore requested that the Lock-up Dispensary at Chandigarh may please be upgraded as a Specialised Railway Hospital early.

- 2. a) <u>Empanelment of Specialised Private Hospitals & Diagnostic Centers by the Railways at</u>
 Chandigarh
 - b) Issue of Smart Cards for Cashless Treatment in emergency as per Orders of MOR

None of the Private Hospitals is recognised at present at Chandigarh, Panchkula & Mohali. Fortis Hospital had been recognised by the Railways only for Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery – and that too on year to year basis. Its empanelment lapses every year and does not get renewed by the Railways for months together. Its empanelment had not yet been renewed this year since September, 2012 even for Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery.

On the other hand, a large number of Hospitals and Diagnostic centers are Recognised / Empanelled at Chandigarh, under the CGHS. Fortis Hospital is empanelled under CGHS for almost all major Specialties. But no Hospital is recognised by the Railways. All this is causing serious hardship to the Railway Beneficiaries – especially the Senior Citizens residing in this area as the nearest Railway Hospital is 30 to 50 Kms away.

Railway Board's letter No.2007/H/28/1/RELHS/Smart Card Dated 18.07.2012 has not been implemented so far either in respect of issue Smart Cards to provide Cashless Service for RELHS Card Holders to take treatment in Recognized Private Hospitals in emergency. The said orders have also not been implemented for Empanelment of Specialised Private Hospitals & Diagnostic Centres even though the orders clealy made the following provisions:

- I. The scheme is to be implemented in all the Metros, State Capitals and Zonal Headquarters.
- II. Zonal Railways shall enter into an 'MOU' with already empanelled hospitals under their jurisdiction for the scheme. Further, if there are not enough recognized multi-specialty hospitals, zonal Railways shall recognize CGHS empanelled hospitals on CGHS approved rates and/or other hospitals as per extant policy and enter into an 'MOU' for the Smart Card Scheme.

It is earnestly requested that:

- a) Specialized Private Hospitals & Diagnostic centres may please be Recognised in the Tri-city of Chandigarh, Panchkula and Mohali – including those recognized under CGHS – as per above cited orders dated 18-7-2012 of MoR.
- b) Railways be advised to expedite Issue of Smart Cards for Cashless Treatment in emergency as per Orders of MOR dated 18-7-2012 (Cited above).
- 3. <u>Issue of Revised PPOs to Pre-2006 Pensioners –Implementation of Orders of MOR:</u>

More than four years have passed since the issue of Orders for implementation of the Report of Sixth Pay Commission, but Revised Pension Pay Orders (PPOs) have not yet been issued by the Railways to majority of the Pre-2006 Pensioners – causing much hardship and financial loss to them.

Pension has not been revised by the Banks as per Sixth CPC in case of many of the Pensioners / Family Pensioners; or has been wrongly fixed / arbitrarily fixed by the Banks in many cases; and additional Pension payable above 80 years of age is not being paid to many Pensioners / Family Pensioners – in the absence of Revised PPOs.

A number of reminders have been issued by the DOP, Railway Board, MS/RB & the last one being a DO by CRB (vide DO No. 2010/AC-II?21/10 dated 10-8-2011) – fixing a targeted date - but the follow up action on the Railways is so slow that it reflects lack of any concern for the sufferings of the old Pensioners & Family Pensioners.

It is requested that instructions may please again be given for Issue of Revised PPOs to Pre-2006 Pensioners – in a time-bound frame work & with adequate monitoring, feedback & accountability at each level.

4. Companion in same class with old Pensioners - without paying the difference of fare:

Railway Pensioners above 65 years have been allowed a Companion in the same Class (instead of Attendant in Sleeper Class) by paying the full difference of Fare between Sleeper Class & the Class in which they travel as per entitlement. Pensioners above 70 years of age have been allowed a Companion in the same Class (instead of Attendant in Sleeper Class) by paying one third the difference of Fare between Sleeper Class & the Class in which they travel as per entitlement.

This is causing hardship to old Pensioners - who essentially need a companion to accompany them during travel due to their old age and infirm health but paying the difference causes serious hardship due to their limited resources.

It is, therefore, requested that a Companion (instead of Attendant) in same class with Senior Pensioners above 60 years or at least after 65 years of age - without paying the difference of fare – due to their old age, infirm health and limited resources.

5. <u>Eligibility for RELHS of Widowed Daughter getting Family Pension (on expiry of both parents)</u>:

Widowed Daughters are eligible for treatment under RELHS as dependents – as long as either of the Parents (Pensioner/Family Pensioner) is alive. But the facility is not given to the Widowed Daughters on expiry of both Parents – which is quite unjustified and causes undue hardship.

It is requested that Widowed Daughter getting Family Pension (on expiry of both parents) be allowed the benefit of RELHS as in other Department under CGHS.

6. Eligibility for same Class of Complementary Passes for old & new Retirees:

Eligibility for Class of Passes has been revised *vide* Railway Board's OM No. E(W)2008/PS 5-1/38 dated 6th Jan, 2011 (RBE 3-2011). But this did not cover the Pensioners. Consequently those who retired prior to the date of effect of the said letter are getting Lower Class of Passes than those who retired after that date. This is discriminatory and causing a lot of heart burning amongst the old Pensioners.

It is, therefore, requested that Eligibility for same Class of Complementary Passes may please be allowed for all old & new Retirees – as for the serving employees

7. <u>Starting of third (Mid-Day) Shatabdi Express from Chandigarh & New Delhi to connect arrivals & departures of various Rajdhani Express trains at New Delhi:</u>

All Rajdhani Express Trains reach New Delhi between 9 AM to 11 AM and start from New Delhi in the evening between 4 PM & 6 PM. But there are no connecting trains from & to Chandigarh in either direction – thus compelling Passengers from Chandigarh to waste the whole day at Delhi or to travel by Road in either direction, thus defeating the very purpose of travelling by Rajdhani Express.

Starting of third Mid-Day Shatabdi Express from Chandigarh & New Delhi to connect arrivals & departures of various Rajdhani Express trains at New Delhi, will benefit both the Railways as well as the Passengers – especially the citizens of the Tri-City of Chandigarh.

8. <u>Introduction of "Golden Temple Express" between Chandigarh & Amritsar so as to start from Chandigarh early morning & return by late evening.</u>

There is at present no train between Chandigarh and Amritsar causing great inconvenience to those travelling between the two cities – especially for the "darshan" of the holy shrine of Golden Temple.

It is, therefore requested to introduce a "Golden Temple Express" between Chandigarh & Amritsar so as to start from Chandigarh early morning & return by late evening.

With kind regards,

(M.S. Batra) President, RSCWS (Harchandan Singh), Secretary General, RSCWS.