

RAILWAYS SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE SOCIETY

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IDENTIFIED & RECOGNISED BY MINISTRY OF PENSION & PENSIONERS' WELFARE (DOP&PW)

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No. RSCWS/ HO / 7th CPC/ FMA/ 2016-16

Dated: 6-9-2016

1. Finance Secretary & Secretary (Expenditure), North Block, New Delhi-110001 Email: secy-exp@nic.in
2. Secretaries of Home Affairs, North Block, New Delhi – 110001 Email: hshso@nic.in
3. Secretary Defence, 101 South Block, New Delhi – 110001 Email: defsecy@nic.in
4. Secretary Post, Deptt. of Post, Sanchar Bhawan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi 110001 Email: secy-posts@nic.in
5. Secretary Health & Family Welfare, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi -110001 Email: secyhfw@gmail.com
6. Secretary Personnel & Training, North Block, New Delhi – 110001 Email: secy_mop@nic.in
7. Chairman, Railway Board, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001. Email: crb@rb.rail.net.gov.in

For kind consideration of the Committee of Secretaries on Fixed Medical Allowance

Dear Sir,

Subject: Fixed Medical Allowances

Reference: Item 1 of Resolution of GOI on 7th CPC Report on Pensionary Benefits of Pre-2016 Pensioners issued vide DOP&PW orders No.38/37/2016-P&PW (A) dated 4-8-2016

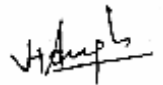
1. **Seventh Pay Commission** had recommended as under (vide Para 8.17.52 of the Report):
“The Commission notes that this allowance was enhanced from RS.300/- p.m. to RS.500/- p.m. from 19.11.2014. As such, further enhancement of this allowance is not recommended.”
2. **Government of India** had decided as under vide Item 1 of its Resolution cited above:
“To be examined by a Committee comprising Finance Secretary and Secretary (Expenditure) as Chairman and Secretaries of Home Affairs, Defence, Posts, Health & Family Welfare, Personnel & Training and Chairman, Railway Board as Members. Till a final decision is taken based on the recommendations of the Committee, Fixed Medical Allowance shall be paid at existing rates.”
3. **OUR SUBMISSIONS:** We have to make the following submissions for the kind consideration of the Committee:
 - i) The reason given by the Pay Commission for not recommending the revision of FMA was quite unjust because the basic issue to be considered was the quantum of FMA and not as to when it was last revised.
 - ii) It is regretted that the 7th CPC had not even gone into the merits of the reasons advanced for the revision of FMA. Such summary rejection of the issue was most arbitrary and unjust.
 - iii) FMA of Rs.100 fixed in 1999 was itself very low and did not take into consideration the actual requirement for day-to-day treatment especially in case of the Pensioners & their spouse who were all senior citizens requiring regular medication, consultation and at times minor procedures (not requiring hospitalisation).
 - iv) A large proportion of Pensioners were residing in remote areas or villages having no excess to CGHS Dispensaries & Railway Hospitals and as such, are wholly dependent on the paltry amount of FMA for day-to-day treatment of self & spouse.
 - v) The Pensioners residing in non-CGHS areas and far away from CGHS Dispensaries / Wellness Centres and Railway Hospitals were not even covered under CGHS / RELHS

and had to bear all the expenses even for the hospitalisation, medicines and the related procedures for their treatment.

- vi) The cost had exorbitantly increased for the Medicines, Consultation Fee and cost of Pathological Tests required for day-to-day medical treatment since 1999 (when the FMA was initially granted) and this had risen at a much steeper rate than the General Price Index.
 - vii) Average monthly expenditure per pensioner/per Patient on OPD in CGHS Hospitals has increased manifold and is at present over Rs.3000 to Rs.3500 per patient. This reflects the exorbitant increase in the cost of Medicines, Consultation Fee and cost of Pathological Tests etc. required for day-to-day medical treatment. The FMA of Rs.500 per month is thus a pittance of the actual expenditure on day-to-day Medical Treatment by the Pensioners who are residing in non-CGHS /RELHS areas and have thus opted out of the same.
4. OUR PRAYER: It is requested that the FMA may please be revised to at least Rs.3000 p.m. or at par with the average expenditure on OPD Treatment per month per Pensioner / Patient in the CGHS Hospitals / wellness Centres.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,



(Harchandan Singh)
Secretary General, RSCWS