

MINUTES OF GENERAL BODY MEETING OF RSCWS

HELD ON 27-4-2013 AT HOTEL CHANDIGARH BEACKONS, SECTOR 42, CHANDIGARH

Meeting was presided over by Sh. N. P. Mohan, President RSCWS. Meeting was largely attended by 85 Members. Sh. S. C. Maheshwari, Secretary General BPS was the Chief Guest.

1. Sh. N. P. Mohan in his opening address welcomed the Members. He referred to the important development since last AGM of 27th January namely the orders issued by DOP relating to the stepping up of pension (based on modified parity) and revising the minimum pension from an arbitrary date of 24/9/2012 instead of 1/1/2006 thus depriving the pensioners from arrears of about 7 years. The verdict of the CAT Pr Bench for re-fixing pension from 1-1-2006 challenged by Govt in Delhi HC was fixed for 29th April.

He thanked the Members for electing him as the President of the Society and assured them of putting in all the efforts for the cause of the Society. He exhorted the members to help in strengthening the Society by enrolling new members through their personal contacts. He mentioned about the proposed amendments to Constitution (circulated to the members) for which their approval will be sought.

2. Sh. M. S. Batra, Chairman while appreciating the efforts of the Society in resolving the problems of the Pensioners, called upon the Members to help in further expanding the organization and to donate liberally to the Legal and General Fund of the Society.

3. Shri Harchandan Singh Secretary General informed about the progress made for improving the health care facilities for Railway Pensioners residing in the tri-city of Chandigarh, Mohali and Panchkula - including the continuing efforts for recognition of Private Hospitals in the area by the Railways. The empanelment of Fortis Hospital Mohali had been renewed up to September 2013 for Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery. Fortis had also since applied for empanelment for other 6 Super-Specialties for Railway Beneficiaries.

Singh regretted that non-issue of Revised Pension Pay Orders (PPOs) by the Railways was a matter of great concern to Railway Pensioners and Family Pensioners. With the issue of the new orders of DOP dated 28-1-2013 & Railway Board's Orders dated 11-2-2013 – for re-fixing the minimum Pension & FP for each 5th CPC corresponding scale as per Sixth CPC formula for Modified Parity w.e.e.f. 24-9-2012, it had become even more necessary to get the Re-Revised PPOs by Pre 2006 Pensioners. As such more intensive efforts are required to get it done.

He further informed that the hearing of the Appeal of the Govt. against CAT Judgement was fixed on 29-4-2013. The Petition for higher FMA had been drafted, but due to inadequate funds, BPS was being urged to join the case as a Co-applicant and to share the expenses. BPS in the meanwhile agreed to seek legal opinion for the case for 3 times rise of Pension uniformly for all Pre 2006 Pensioners at par with those from S 24 and above.

4. **CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS:** Secretary General Shri Harchandan Singh moved the Amendments – as approved by the Executive Committee. He urged the Members to finally Approve and Adopt the same (as per copy circulated to all the Members). After discussions, the Amendments in the Constitution of RSCWS were approved and adopted unanimously – as per copy attached herewith.

5. a) **MEDICAL CAMP:** A Medical Camp & Seminar on “*Prevention & Treatment of Diabetes in old age*” was also held on the occasion and free Blood test of all the Members was done. All those having high blood sugar were given free consultation and the Diet Chart for controlling the Blood Sugar.

b) **MEDICAL SEMINAR:** Dr. K. P. Singh, Senior Consultant (Endocrinology), Fortis Hospital, Mohali, explained in detail the reasons for high density of Diabetic patients in India – especially in old age groups. He also explained the change in dietary habits and life style required to be followed by the Diabetic patients. He also inter-acted with the audience and explained the treatment of Diabetes - including the modern devices for management of diabetes.

c) Shri N. P. Mohan and Shri Batra thanked and honoured Dr K. P. Singh Mrs Rupinder Kaur (In - charge Fortis City Centre) for arranging such useful Camp and Seminar.

6. Shri Harchandan Singh welcomed Shri S. C. Maheshwari, Secretary General BPS. Shri Singh highlighted the problems of the Pensioners – especially in the tri-city due lack of Health Care facilities and low Fixed Medical Allowance. He urged Shri Maheshwari to take up the case on revision of FMA in the Court of law through BPS. A complete file of the case reg. FMA (containing over 300 pages received under the RTI, and the draft of the Petition for higher FMA – prepared by the Senior Advocate at Chandigarh) was handed over by Shri N. P. Mohan to Shri Maheshwari. Stressing on the inadequacy of FMA affecting pensioners all over, Shri Mohan emphasized that BPS was the right forum for piloting the legal course.

7. **ADDRESS BY S. C. MAHESHWARI:** Shri S. C. Maheshwari, Secretary General, Bharat Pensioners' Samaj (BPS), in his address Mentioned the following points:

i) He emphasized the need for a united struggle by the Pensioners – including resort to the legal remedies to resolve the serious problems faced by the Pensioners – especially due to anomalies created in fixation of Revised pension after the Sixth Pay Commission and pittance of Fixed Medical Allowance (FMA)

paid to the Pensioners for day-to-day treatment – while residing in far flung areas where no Railway Hospitals were available.

ii) He explained to the large audience that there are two main categories of grievances of Pensioners; No1. With reference to correct & timely implementation of existing Govt. policies Rules/regulations & procedures; and No2. Regarding Improvement/amendments of existing policies/Rules& regulations etc

iii) Speaking on Grievances relating to implementation of existing policies, Rules & regulation, he informed that after prolonged efforts - On line & offline systems to redress grievances of Pensioners/Family Pensioners is now in place. Nodal officers at all levels have been nominated, time line & the procedure has been laid down .Even Citizen Charter for M/O PPG & Pensions-DOPPW is in place. A step towards personal hearing of grievances by concerned officers on nominated days of the week has been taken. Some Divisions have started a Desk named 'Asha' under direct monitoring of DRM & SR DPO which attends to Pensioners/family pensioners grievances in time bound manner.

iv) Regarding grievances like removal of disparity between post & pre 2006 & within pre 2006 retirees, applicability of new benefits to pre 2006 retirees, merger of 50% DR as DP, raising FMA to Rs 1200, restoration of commuted value of Pension in 12 years, Old age additional pension starting from 65 yrs, Companion on PR Rly Passes in the same class w/o payment of any Charges, issues related to RELHS etc. Shri Maheshwari rued that though some issues related to RELHS were resolved but implementation was awaited.

v) He said “pensioners today are passing through a very difficult time with ever rising cost of living & health care rendering pension grossly inadequate”. The Govt. was not prepared to consider our just demands and does not bother to redress our grievances adequately. The next decade will be one of struggle, not only for Pensioners but for the entire community of Sr citizen & organizations will have to determine whether - Co-operation is a better model or the conflict?”

vi) Referring to FMA he informed that BPS was seized of the issue right from 2005 & had been demanding Rs 1200 as FMA without distance restriction and with linkage to inflation. M/O Health & family welfare, in their reply to BPS, has committed that they had no objection if FMA is raised to Rs 1200/ & that BPS representation is now pending with the Minister for Finance.

vii) Regarding RSCWS request for filing legal suit for raising FMA, he said the audience that legal recourse is the last alternative, as it not only involves huge expenditure but lot of strain & stress on litigants. He informed the audience that presently BPS is seized of the issue of equal percentage rise in pension of all pre 2006 Pensioners & that legal consultations were on.

viii) He, however, assured that after studying the information provided by RSCWS and obtaining legal advice, issue will be put up to BPS Managing committee for suitable decision. Maheshwari, emphasized, that to get desired results legal battle alone is not sufficient, it is to be supplemented by field struggle too which involves discussions with concerned officers to create favorable opinion as well as show of strength in field to earn political favor.

ix) He said, “Let’s then mobilize ourselves in a big way, convincing the public opinion that we are not a burden & that we are not asking for largesse but our own rights established by none else than the apex court of the country. Let the Govt. & the political parties realize that we too have a vote Bank & that they will not be able to neglect us for long”.

8. Shri N. P Mohan President RSCWS in his concluding speech called upon the Govt to ameliorate the problems of the Pensioners – especially those residing in the tri-city by upgrading the Health Care facilities at Chandigarh, recognising Private Hospitals in the tri-city for treatment of Railway Pensioners and their dependents and to increasing the FMA adequately for day-to-day treatment in old age for those not getting OPD facilities.

Meeting dispersed after a vote of thanks to the chair & others.

N. P. MOHAN
PRESIDENT RSCW

HARCHANDAN SINGH
SECRETARY GENERAL RSCWS

**AMENDMENTS IN THE CONSTITUTION OF RSCWS
ADOPTED BY GENERAL BODY MEETING IN THE MEETING HELD ON 27-4-2013**

II. OFFICE

- i) **Registered Office** of the Society shall be located at Chandigarh.
 ii) **Head Office** of the Society may be either at Chandigarh, Mohali or Panchkula either at the residence of the Secretary General or President or at any other suitable place in the tri-city.
 ii) Any change in the address shall be notified to the Registrar within 14 days.

V) SUBSCRIPTION

- a) i) The subscription for the Members of the Society shall be Rs. 300 per annum.
 ii) The subscription for the Associate Members of the Society shall be Rs. 150 PA
 b) Subscription will be re-fixed according to the requirements so warranted with the approval of the General Body.
 c) Life membership will be Rs. 2500.
 d) Special contribution may be raised to meet with the special programme (s), if any.
 e) Donations from members or non-members may be accepted to pursue the objectives of the Society.
 f) Subscription paid shall relate to calendar year.

IX. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- a) The general management of the Society shall vest in the Executive Committee.
 b) The General Body shall elect the Executive Committee at its biannual meeting which will consist of following Office Bearers & Executive Members:

Patron / Patrons	To be nominated by Exec. Comm.	Secretaries	Two
Chairman	One	Joint Secretaries	Two
President	One	Treasurer	One
Working President	Two	Joint Treasurer	One
Sr Vice President	Two	Auditor	One
Vice President	Two	Executive Members	Ten
Secretary General	One	Zonal Secretaries	Ex-Officio

- c) All Zonal Secretaries of the Society shall be Ex-Officio Members of Executive Committee.
 d) Additional Office Bearers or Executive Members may be nominated - by the President or by the Executive Committee – with special assignments – in organizational interest.
 e) Executive Committee may nominate any prominent persons as Patron or Advisor.
 f) Ex-President & Ex Secretary General shall be Ex-Officio Members of Executive Committee.
 g) Any vacancy occurring during the course of 2 years shall be filled up by the Executive Committee

XII (A) POWERS & DUTIES OF PATRON

To guide the President, Secretary General and the Executive Committee regarding the affairs of the Society for achieving its aims and objectives as per provisions of the Constitution.

XII (B) POWERS & DUTIES OF CHAIRMAN

- i) He shall guide the activities of the Society during the meetings of Executive Committee & General Body and advise them from time to time to achieve the aims & objectives of the Society as per provisions of the Constitution.
 ii) He shall have the final Casting Vote in the event of a tie in the voting on any issue.
 iii) He shall be authorised to sanction an expenditure above Rs.5000 and up to Rs.10000 in case of an exigency to meet the aims and objectives of the Society.
 iv) He shall be the Appellate Authority in Disciplinary Cases.

XII (C) POWERS AND DUTIES OF PRESIDENT

- i) President shall preside over all meetings of the General Body and the Executive Committee.
 ii) He shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie.
 iii) He shall be authorised to keep an Imprest amount of Rs.1000 for day to day expenditure to meet the objectives of the Society.
 iv) He shall be authorised to sanction up-to Rs.5000 to meet any exigencies for furtherance of the objectives of the Society.
 v) He shall be authorized to call an emergent meeting of the Executive Committee and the General Body.
 vi) He shall generally be responsible for conducting the affairs of the Executive Committee and ensuring that the decisions of the Committee are fully carried out under his guidance.
 vii) He is empowered to warn / suspend any member for misbehaviour or for working against the interest of the society.
 viii) He shall be authorized to accept the Resignation of the Members/Office Bearers of the Society and to nominate a Member to fill up any vacancy in the Executive Committee in consultation with the Secretary General.

XII (D) POWERS & DUTIES OF WORKING PRESIDENTS:

- i) To help the President in discharge of his duties
- ii) To represent & function as the President in his absence.
- iii) To oversee the Welfare activities and overall organizational growth of the Society.

XIII) POWERS & DUTIES OF SR. VICE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

- i) To supervise the Welfare activities of the Society.
- ii) To help in expanding the activities of the society and for inducting new members in the Society.
- iii) To carry out any duty assigned by the President.
- iv) To function as President in absence of President, Working President & Sr. Vice President.

XIV. POWERS & DUTIES OF SECRETARY GENERAL

- i) Secretary General will be the in-charge of the office of the Society - subject to the control of the Executive Committee.
- ii) He will Correspond on behalf of the Society and maintain files, membership Register, Minutes Books and all such other record.
- iii) He will convene meetings of the General Body and Executive Committee and issue notices of meetings to the members in writing.
- iv) He will record all the proceedings of the meetings and get it confirmed in the next meeting.
- vi) He will arrange and organize all functions of the Society.
- vii) He will present annual report of activities of the Society before General Body.
- viii) He will be authorised to keep an Imprest amount of Rs 1000 for day to day expenditure to meet the objectives of the Society.
- ix) To coordinate the Welfare activities of the Society.

XV. POWERS & DUTIES OF SECRETARIES & JOINT SECRETARIES:

- i) To look after the Welfare activities of the Society and inter-act with Members (especially those residing in their area / region) for welfare, general awareness and health care.
- ii) To help in collection & raising of Funds from Members and through other resources.
- ii) To look after the arrangements of Meetings and other functions of the Society.
- iii) To discharge the duties and functions of the Secretary General in his absence as advised by him or the President / Working President.
- iv) To play an active role towards expanding the activities of the Society and for inducting new members of the Society through personal contacts and other means.

XVI A) POWERS & DUTIES OF TREASURER & JOINT TREASURER

Treasurer will carry out the following duties with the help & assistance of the Joint Treasurer:

- i) To keep accounts of income & expenditure of the Society.
- ii) To keep the funds of the Society in safe custody.
- iii) To present monthly statement of receipt & expenditure to the Executive Committee through the Secretary General.
- iv) To collect subscription from the members and issue receipt thereof.
- v) To keep with him an imprest of Rs. 1000 as cash in hand and deposit the balance in the Bank as decided upon by the Executive Committee.
- vi) To make payment of Bills after they have been verified by the Secretary General or the President/ Working President.
- vii) To prepare Annual & Quarterly statement of Receipt and Expenditure to be presented in the General Body meeting along with Balance Sheet through the Secretary General.
- viii) To assist the Secretary General as required by him.
- ix) To get the Accounts audited from the Auditor in each quarter and every year.
- x) To help in enrolling new Members of the Society and for raising additional Funds for the Society.

XVI. B) DUTIES OF AUDITOR:

To audit the accounts of the Society in each quarter & prepare Annual Balance Sheet of Accounts.

XVI. C) DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE MEMBERS:

To carry out the duties as are specifically assigned to them by the President / Secretary General or the Executive Committee and such other duties as enjoined as the constituents of the Sub-Committees of the Society.

XVI. D) DUTIES OF ZONAL SECRETARIES:

To organize the activities of the Society in the respective Zone, as per Constitution of the Society; and as per directives and policies of the Executive Committee.

Sd/- N. P. MOHAN
PRESIDENT RSCW

Sd/- HARCHANDAN SINGH
SECRETARY GENERAL RSCWS