

PENSIONERS' RAIL SAMPARK

QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF

RAILWAY SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE SOCIETY (RSCWS)

Estd. 1991, Regd. No. 1881 – Under Registration of Societies Act)
H.O 32, Phase- 6, Mohali, Chandigarh -160055
Email: rscws1991@gmail.com (M: 9316131598, 836045258, 9569631598)

Website: WWW.TSCWS.COM Quarterly Journal: "Pensioners'Rail Sampark"
AFFILIATED TO BHARAT PENSIONERS' SAMAJ (BPS)

IDENTIFIED BY DOP&PW - UNDER PENSIONERS' PORTAL GOVT. OF INDIA MEMBER, SCOVA (STANDING COMMITTEE FOR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES) (GOI)

THE CAUSE OF
PENSIONERS
SINCE 1991

Chief Editor PRS &Chairman RSCWS N.P. MOHAN, CE (Retd) WR 1023, Sector 15 B, Chandigarh 160015 (Ph: 0172 2772875, 09417870544) Email: npmohan34@gmail.com Executive Editor PRS &President RSCWS O. S. Dogra, CME(Retd) NR E-62, GH-3, MDC-5 Panchkula– 134114 (Ph: 01722556453, 9357556453)

Email: omrama4439@gmail.com

Editor PRS& Secretary General RSCWS HARCHANDAN SINGH, SSE (Retd) NR 32, Phase 6, Mohali, Chandigarh-160055 (PH:09316131598, 8360452584) Email: rscws1991@gmail.comharchandan_chd32@yahoo.co.in

Vol. 13, No. 1

CHANDIGARH: JANUARY-MARCH, 2018

FOR FREE CIRCULATION TO MEMBERS RSCWS

DR. JITENDRA SINGH MOS P&P ASSURESEARLY REDRESSAL OF PENSIONERS' PROBLEMSIN SCOVA MEETING

Dr. Jitendra Singh, MOS Personnel and Pensioners, chaired the 30th meeting of the Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA) on 23rdMarch, 2018 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.(SEE PAGE 3-5 FOR COMPLETE NEWS & ITEMS DISCUSSED).

RSCWS NOMINATED AS MEMBER OF SCOVA - A FORUM TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF PENSIONERS

Railway Senior Citizens Welfare Society (RSCWS) has been nominated by the Government of India as a Member of the SCOVA (Standing Committee for Voluntary Agencies) for a period of 2 years, which is extendable by another 2 years. SCOVA is the prime forum to discuss the problems of the Pensioners.

SCOVA is headed by MOSPPG&P (Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pension) as its Chairman, Secretary P&PW as Convener and Representatives of all the major Departments as Official Members (including Finance, Defence, Railways, Post, Telecom & Health) as Official Members and 15 Non-Official Members (including 5 Pensioners' Associations as Standing Group and 10 Pensioners' Associations as Rotating Group (with a tenure of 2 years, which is extendable by another 2 years).

RSCWS raises major issues of Pensioners in SCOVA

Secretary General RSCWS, Shri Harchandan Singh, effectively discussed all major issues in the 30th Meeting of SCOVA including hardship suffered by Pensioners due to delay in issue of Revised PPOs and revision of Pension from 2016, Denial of Benefit of Upgrading to all affected Pensioners as per Court orders, difficulty in getting referral for treatment in empanelled Hospitals etc. (See details on Page 3 to 5)

RSCWS CALLS UPON OTHER PENSIONERS ASSOCIATIONS TO AFFILIATE

RSCWS has resolved to call upon other Pensioners' Associations to Affiliate with RSCWS for a joint and collective effort to resolve the problems of the Pensioners and to effectively pursue with the Government to redress their genuine grievances.

MEMBERS RSCWS, THEIR SPOUSES& OTHER RAILWAY PENSIONERS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

AGM (ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING) OF RSCWS &

MEDICAL SEMINAR ON "HEART PROBLEMS IN OLD AGE"
BY DR. ARUN KOCHHAR, CARDIOLOGIST, FORTIS HOSPITAL, MOHALI

ON 21STAPRIL, 2018 FROM 3 TO 5 PM AT GOVT. MUSEUM AUDITORIUM, SECTOR 10, CHANDIGARH

ON 21° APRIL, 2018 FROM 3 TO 5 PM AT GOVT. MUSEUM AUDITORIUM, SECTOR 10, CHANDIGARH ALL ARE REQUESTED TO PLEASE REACH IN TIME & TO JOIN US FOR TEAAFTER THE MEETING

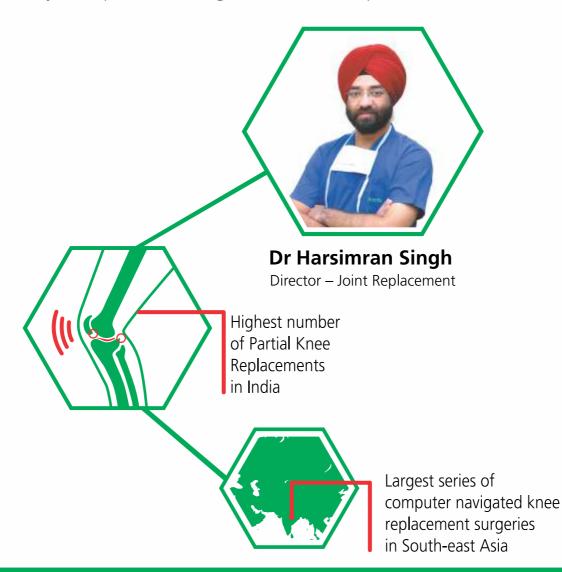
AGENDA

- 1. Address by Chairman RSCWS
- 2. Address by President RSCWS
- 3. Report of Activities by Secretary General
- 4. Report of Accounts
- 5. Starting "Sadasye Sampark Abbhiyan" (EC Teams to keep in touch with Members)
- 6. Honoring of Senior & Super SeniorMembers (who crossed 100, 95, 90, 80, & 65 years in 2017-18)
- 7. Aid to NGOS who are helping the Poor & Destitute
- 8. Constitution Amendments for Affiliation of other Pensioners Associations with RSCWS
- 9. Any other point with the permission of the Chair.

President & Secretary General, RSCWS

THE KNEE REPLACEMENT UNIT AT FORTIS HOSPITAL MOHALI ACHIEVES A HISTORIC LANDMARK

Fortis Healthcare congratulates **Dr Harsimran Singh** on completing **15,000** joint replacement surgeries at Fortis Hospital Mohali.



Fortis Hospital Mohali is empaneled by Northern Railways, DMW & RCF Kapurthala for the Cashless Treatment of railway beneficiaries in emergency and on reference by referring authority.

In non-referral cases, the members of RSCWS are treated at CGHS rates and offered 20% Discount on in-house diagnostics on showing Membership Card of RSCWS.

For more information, please contact: Dr Ajinder Singh - 9872170582

Sector 62, Phase-VIII, Mohali - 160 062. Tel.: 0172-5021222, 4692222 E-mail: contactus.mohali@fortishealthcare.com Website: www.fortishealthcare.com



DR. JITENDRA SINGH MOS P&P CHAIRS 30TH MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEE OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES (SCOVA) & ASSURES EARLY REDRESSAL OF PROBLEMS OF PENSIONERS

The Union Minister of State, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh chaired the 30th meeting of the Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA) on 23rd March, 2018 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The SCOVA meeting is organised by the Department of Pensions & Pensioners' Welfare (DoP&PW), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions and the last such meeting was held on January 12, 2017.

During the meeting, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the SCOVA which was first constituted in July, 1986 would be completing 32 years this year. He said this platform has gone a long way in addressing in a focused manner issues related to Pensioners. He said that today's interaction was very meaningful and stimulating, thus reflecting on the working of DoP&PW.

The Minister while assuring the representatives of pensioners' Associations said that it was no more mandatory to have one's Aadhaar Card to get his/her pension.

The Minister said that the Department of Pensions has brought out a series of OMs to benefit the Pensioners/Family Pensioners in the last 12 months including enhancing of minimum pension from Rs.3500/- to Rs.9000/- per month; the ceiling of gratuity has been increased from the existing Rs.10 lakhs to Rs.20 lakhs; the rates of ex-gratia lump sum compensation being paid to the families of employees who die in performance of duty has been increased from existing Rs. 10-15 lakhs to Rs.25-45 lakhs. He also said that divorced daughter will be eligible for family pension if divorce case has been filed before the death of pensioner/family pensioner, even though the judgment has been passed after the death of the pensioner/family pensioner.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that this Government has given relief to the senior citizens and Pensioners in the Budget 2018-19 by allowing Standard Deduction of Rs. 40,000/- per year to the Pensioners and given exemption on tax on account of interest income from bank savings accounts has been increased to Rs.50,000/ from Rs.10,000/- per year. Deduction on account of health insurance premium which was earlier allowed at maximum of Rs.30,000/- has now been increased to Rs.50,000/- in the case of Senior Citizens/Pensioners.

While addressing the meeting he said that we need to put in place an institutionalized mechanism to make good use of the knowledge, experience and efforts of the retired employees which can help in the value addition to the current scenario. Dr. Jitendra Singh said the retired employees are a healthy and productive workforce for India and we need to streamline and channelize their energies in a productive direction. We should learn from the pensioners' experience, he added. The Minister also said that the DoP&PW should be reoriented in such a way that pensioners become a part of nation building process.

In the meeting, discussions were held on the action taken report of the 29th SCOVA meeting. Further, many issues related to pensioners were discussed threadbare, such as revision of PPOs of pre-2006 pensioners, Health Insurance Scheme for pensioners including those residing in non-CGHS area, Application of Court Judgements to all similarly placed cases for Revision of Pension, Special "Higher" Family Pension for widows of the war disabled invalidated out of service, Extension of CGHS facilities to P&T pensioners, issue relating to CGHS Wellness Centres etc. The Minister directed for the prompt and time bound redressal of the grievances of the pensioners and said that we should have sympathetic attitude towards them.

Secretary, DoP&PW, Shri K.V. Eapen and other senior officers of DoP&PW and other important Ministries/Departments of Government of India attended the Meeting. The meeting was attended by the representatives Pensioners Associations which are Members of SCOVA *including Secretary General RSCWS & others*).

FRESH AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED IN 30TH SCOVA MEETING

Following items were discussed at length in the Meeting of SCOVA on 23rd March, 2018. The representatives of Pensioners' Associations justified each item effectively and stressed for early acceptance of the same to provide relief to the Pensioners. Official side expressed their opinion on each point. Details of the conclusion arrivedat will be included in the Minutes of the Meeting which will be circulated soon and suitable action will be taken thereon by the concerned Ministry / Department

Item No. 30.1 Revision of PPOs of pre-2016 pensioners/family pensioners as per 7th CPC orders

Orders have been issued by Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare for revision of pension of pre-2016 pensioners/family pensioners vide OM No. 38/37/2016-P&PW(A) dated 04.08.2016 and 12.05.2017. Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare has also issued Concordance table to facilitate quick revision of pension. Provision has also been made in the "Bhavishya" software to revise the pension electronically. However, the pace of revision of pension/family pension of pre-2016 pensioners/family pensioners is not satisfactory. Action needs to be taken to expedite revision of pension of pre-2016 pensioners/family pensioners.

(Action:- CPAO, Railways, Defence, Posts, Telecom)

(Item No.30.2) Payment of arrears accruing in respect of deceased pensioners/family pensioners to the nominee/legal heir

On death of pension/family pensioner, the pension account is closed by the bank and the balance amount in the account is paid to the nominee. However, the lifetime arrears arising subsequently on account of Pay Commissions etc. are not paid to the legal heirs of the deceased pensioner/family pensioner either on account of fact that the pension/family pension is not revised by the concerned Pension Sanctioning Authority (PSA) or the amount of arrears of revised pension/family pension is not paid due to closure of the bank account. In such cases the amount of arrears is kept in a suspense account. Therefore, suitable instructions may be issued to CPAO/PAOs and CPPCs of the banks to make sure that the benefits arising out of revision of Pension/Dearness Relief is also disbursed to the nominee/legal heirs of the deceased pension/family pensioner.

In the 5th and 6th CPC, orders were issued for revision of pension of past pensioners who were dismissed/compulsorily retired by consolidation of their pre-revised Pension, Compassionate Allowance and Dearness Pension, Dearness Relief and Fitment benefit. However, the benefit of modified parity i.e. fixation of pension on 50% of the minimum of pay-scale/minimum of Pay Band plus Grade Pay was not extended to such pensioners. Similarly, in the 7th CPC, although the benefit of revision of pension by modifying the pre-revised pension by a factor of 2.57 has been allowed in such cases, the benefit of revision of pension by notional pay fixation method has not been extended to the pre-2016 pensioners/family pensioners who were compulsorily retired/dismissed from service. The benefit of modified parity in 5th and 6th Pay Commission and notional pay fixation in the 7th CPC should also to be extended to the pensioners drawing compulsory retirement pension/compassionate allowance.(Action:-DoPPW)

(Action:- CPAO and Department of Financial Services)

(Item No. 30.3) Extension of benefit of modified parity/revision of pension by pay fixation method to pensioners drawing Compulsory Retirement Pension/Compassionate Allowance (on dismissal/removal)

(Item No. 30.4) Empanelment of private referral hospitals in each of the districts of the States in the country.

Consequent on allowing Non-CGHS area; P& T pensioners to join CGHS, there is an increase in number of pensioners under CGHS from different areas of the country. At present, CGHS is functioning only from the State capitals and some important cities. Therefore, the newly joining CGHS beneficiaries from the distant districts are not able to avail CGHS facilities. At least one renowned private hospital in every district, which is ready to accept the norms of CGHS including the approved rates etc., may be added as a referral hospital.

(Action:- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)

(Item No. 30.5) Revision of CGHS package rates suitably for attracting more private hospitals for empanelment

The rates of medical facilities for providing hospitals under CGHS are very less which discourages the private hospitals to get themselves empanelled under the CGHS Scheme. Therefore, CGHS package rates should be suitably revised so as to attract more private hospitals for empanelment under the scheme.

(Action:- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)

(Item No. 30.6) Fixed Medical Allowance for pensioners who are residing away from RELHS Centres. Present rate of Fixed Medical Allowance (FMA) which was introduced w.e.f. 01.12.1997 is Rs.1000/- per month and is available to Central Government pensioners who are residing outside CGHS. It has been made compulsory for the Railway Pensioners to join RELHS Scheme and such Railway Pensioners are not entitled to any FMA irrespective of their place of residence and the distances from the RELHS Centers. FMA, which is given for OPD facilities treatment near the residence of the pensioners, may be extended to all Railway Pensioners.(Action:-Ministry of Railways)

(Item No.30.8) Extension of benefit of Composite Hospitals to CAPF personnel

The medical facilities from Composite Hospitals of CAPF are available only to serving CAPF employees and these services are not provided to retired CAPF personnel. The CGHS facilities are available only in State capitals and are not available to CAPF personnel settled in distant places. Fixed Medical Allowance (M) of Rs.1000/- is not sufficient for medical needs of the retired CAPF personnel. The medical facilities in Composite Hospitals which are available in all the States should also be extended to the retired CAPF personnel and required funds may be provided by Ministry of Home Affairs to these Hospitals.(Action: Ministry of Home Affairs)

(Item No. 30.9) Holding of regular Pension Adalats by all Major Ministries/Departments.

Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare have recently started holding Pension Adalats. Among other Departments only Postal Department is holding Pension Adalat twice a year. Other Central Ministries/Departments i.e. Railways, Defence, Telecom, Central Excise and Customs, Income Tax etc. are not holding Pension Adalats. They should be advised to hold regular Pension Adalats.

(Action: All Ministries)

Excerpts from Action Taken Report on Agenda Items of 29th SCOVA Meeting held on 12.01.2017 (As placed before & Discussed in the 30th SCOVA Meeting on 23-3-2018)

No.	Agenda Item	Action Taken
1.	Revision of PPOs of pre-2006 pensioners	CPAO vide their letter dated 28.02.2018 has intimated.
2.	Health Insurance Scheme for pensioners including those residing in Non-CGHS area	Final EFC Memo regarding finalization of the Health Insurance Scheme has been submitted more than a year back. The matter is pending with Department of Expenditure.
3.	Special "Higher" Family Pension for Widows of War Invalidated / Disabled Veterans	The matter is under examination is consultation with CGDA.
4.	Extension of benefit of upgraded Grade Pay to pre-2006 retirees of S-12 grade (issue of grant of grade pay of Rs. 4600/- instead of Rs. 4200/-	Implemented in respect of petitioners to avoid contempt of court. However, the issue is being contested in some other cases pending in the courts. Department of Expenditure has not agreed to the proposal of DoPPW for extension of the benefit of the orders of CAT Bangalore Bench in the case of other similarly placed pre-2006 pensioners who retired from pay- scale of Rs. 6500-10500/ The matter has again been referred to Department of Expenditure on 09.01.2018
5.	Issues of CGHS relating to Wellness Centre Dehradun	Proposal regarding merger of Survey of India Dispensary under CGHS in Dehradun has been agreed to by Surveyor General of India & the matter is being examined further.
6.	Stoppage of Receovery of wrongful/excess payments from Railways Pensioners	Ministry of Railway vide OM dated 16.03.2018 has informed that vide Railway Board's letter dated 04.05.2017, instructions have been issued to provisionally stop ecovery from the pensioners till further advice from the Railway Board which will be issued on receipt of instructions from Department of Expenditure. The Department of Expenditure desired certain information. The information is being collected from all Zonal Railways and Production Units. Subsequently, the same will be submitted to the Department of Expenditure for approval.
7.	Delay in commencement of family pension to spouse on death of pensioner	The issue is being regularly taken up with the Banks and vide CPAO's OM dated 30.01.2018, instructions have been issued to start the family pension within one month from the receipt of the death certificate from the family pensioners so that they may not face any financial hardship.
8.	Payment of (i) Restoration of commutation amount and (ii) Additional Pension on attaining the age of 80 years should be streamlined by the Banks	In this regard, instructions are being issued from time to time to all the CPPCs of the banks and this was also discussed in the meeting held on 31.01.2018 with the banks. Banks were instructed to make necessary flagging of dates in software for timely restoration of commutation and commencement of additional pension.
9.	Item wise details of the payment made to be shown in Pass Book of Pensioners	CPPCs guideline, all Pension paying braches are responsible for providing pension slip and details of all the payments made to pensioners. Department of Financial Services vide its letter dated 02.03.2017 has asked the Public sector Banks (PSBs) to take necessary action in the matter Reg Web registration of pensioners grievances and PPO Status

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IN FAVOUR OF "RAILWAY SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE SOCIETY" – AT HIS FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

SH. JASPAL SINGH, TREASURER, RSCWS, FLAT NO. 1020/1, FF, SECTOR45-B, CHANDIGARH—160047 (PH.09876092040)

- PRESIDENT & SECRETARY GENERAL, RSCWS

RAILWAYS TO IMPROVE MEDICAL FACILITIES IN ITS HEALTH UNITS & HOSPITALS

Copy of Railway Board's Letter No.2018/Trans Cell/Conclave/Health Dated 23-3-2018 to all GMs During conclave "Sampark, Samanvay, Samvad" held on December 16, 2017, GM/WR was nominated to frame 'Guidelines on Hospitals and Medicines'. Full Board in itsmeeting on March 06, 2018 considered the guidelines submitted by GM/WR and decided the following:

- 1. Road Mobile Van with a suitable ex-cadre contract doctor and para-medical staff may be provided wherever rail services are inadequate to cater to the healthcare needs of staff and their families on road side stations.
- 2. Wherever posts are available but not getting filled in by normal recruitment process in categories such as safaiwallah, hospital attendant and others essentially required for patient care, these may be filled in on contract basis. Where posts are not available, the activities, which are essential for the functioning of hospital, may be outsourced.
- 3. For Hospitals/Health Units which do not have Lady Doctors, engagement of a Lady Doctor on part-time contract basis may be done on lines similar to engagement of part-time Dental Surgeons.
- 4. Scheme to call medical consultants to Railway Hospitals for providing professional services on case-tocasebasis may be extended to Health Units also. Health Units may also be permitted to seek consultancy of private consultants by referring as an OPD case. For this purpose, consultants can be empanelled.
- 5. For engagement of Honorary Visiting Specialists (INS), the rates will be notified by DG/RHS. The number of MS required may be decided by GM based on recommendations of CMD and PFA.
- 6. For procedures/surgeries performed at non-Railway hospitals, follow up visits to the treating doctor/hospital are considered essential. Upto three follow up visits may be permitted in normal course. However, if more follow up visits are required, the same may be permitted with the approval of MD/CMS/CMO.
- 7. A Hospital Administrator should be appointed by the GMs for all zonal hospitals.
- 8. Implementation of Hospital Information Management System should be expedited by MDICRIS and separate feedback given to DG/RHS for information of Board.
- 9. If a firm has been approved for supply of medicines for any of the zones, the same should be applicable for all Indian Railways.
- 10. The annual procurement of medicines of 50% of the last year quantity may be done without waiting for indents by respective Zonal Railways/PUs. There should be a 30%option clause which should be operated after finalization of the final vetted demand.
- 11. The limit of 15% of AMI on Local Purchase may be reviewed by GMs and fixed in consultation with PFA.
- 12. The LP suppliers need to be selected in a manner that the distance from the hospital is within 5 kms, and as far as possible these are open on 24 hrs basis.
- 13. Facility of kidney/liver transplant is generally not available at CGHS rates. It needs to be examined by DG/RHS as to how other government departments are managing the situation.
- 14. For making advance payments to non-Railway hospitals in case of emergencies such as road accidents, a suitable cash imprest may be sanctioned by GMs for Hospital/Health Unit as considered necessary by CMD.
- 15. Medicine Procurement Process needs to be examined and streamlined. This may be done by Transformation Cell along with a Doctor nominated by DG/RHS.

CALCULATION OF ARREARS OF REVISION OF PENSION FROM 1-1-2016 TO 31-03-2018 (DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REVISED PENSION WITH 2.57 MF & AS PER CONCORDANCE TABLE)

After the acceptance of 7th CPC recommendations, pension of pre-2016 pensioners was revised from 1-1-2016, as an interim measure, by multiplying the pension as had been fixed at the time of implementation of the 6th CPC recommendations with a factor of 2.57 in all cases.

The first and primary recommendation of 7th CPC was to consider the increments drawn while in service for revision of pension. On 6th July 2017, concordance tables were issued by DOP on the basis of modified formulation in lieu of first option recommended by 7th CPC. Revised PPOs have to be issued for revision of pension as per the concordance tables and arrears will be payable from 1-1-2016. The arrears from 1-1-2016 to 31-03-2018 can be readily worked out from the following table which takes into account the DR sanctioned from time to time.

CALCULATION OFARREARS FROM 11-2016 TO 31-03-2018			
Age Group	Arrears		
up to 80	27.87 x D*		
80-85	33.44 x D*		
85-90	36.23 x D*		
90-95	39.02 X D*		

^{*}D is the difference between pension as per Concordance table and already drawn with factor of 2.57

*Compiled by: NP MOHAN, Chairman, RSCWS



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