

RAIL SAMPAK

A LINK BETWEEN PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE
QUARTERLY NEWS BULLETIN OF THE

RAILWAY SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE SOCIETY (Regd.)

CHANDIGARH – PANCHKULA & MOHALI

(Estd. 1991, Regd. No. 1881 - under Societies Registration Act)

VISIT <http://rscws.com> - A MULTIFARIOUS INFORMATIVE WEBSITE FOR RAILWAY PENSIONERS & OTHERS

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FOR MEMBERS ONLY

RSCWS LAUNCHES MULTIFARIOUS WEBSITE FOR PENSIONERS

A “multifarious inter-active informative website for Railway Pensioners & other Senior Citizens” has been launched by Railway Senior Citizens Welfare Society (RSCWS). The new website <http://rscws.com>, is totally free and fully dedicated to the cause of Railway Pensioners and other Senior Citizens in general.

Keeping pace with the concept of e-governance, the website, besides covering activities of the Society, provides direct links to Government’s National Portal, Pensioners Portal and websites of Ministry of Railways & Ministry of Personnel etc. It also provides links to all Railway Rules, Manuals, Codes etc., a comprehensive coverage & text of Sixth Pay Commission Reports – (including news and views thereon as well as existing and proposed Pensionary Benefits), Court & CAT Judgments, in addition to host of other vital information of interest for the Pensioners.

The website is interactive – with an exclusive “Discussion Forum” & a “Guest Book” – to provide a platform for the Pensioners and other Senior Citizens to raise debates on related problems and issues of common interest. The website provides “A link between Past, Present and the Future,” especially through its News Bulletin - “Rail Sampark” and other multiple features.

The website also has a “Senior Citizens Corner” which will deal with social and cultural issues & health problems of the senior citizens & resolution thereof through mutual inter-action and advice.

Shri K. L. Uppal, Secretary General, All India Pensioners’ Associations (Bharat Pensioners Samaj), in a letter to the Secretary, RSCWS, has highly appreciated the efforts of the Society, for the benefit of the Pensioners – both through its website and otherwise.

MUKAT HOSPITAL AGREES TO TREAT RSCWS MEMBERS ON CGHS RATES

Mukat Heart & Multi-specialty Hospital, Sector 34, Chandigarh, has agreed to provide to the Members of the Railway Senior Citizens Welfare Society (RSCWS), Medical treatment on CGHS rates (including OPD & Indoor -/ Specialised Treatment & Hospitalisation). This was agreed to by the Mukat Hospital recently through a letter to the Secretary, RSCWS. It may be recalled that, Fortis Hospital, Mohali had earlier agreed to provide treatment on CGHS rates to Members of RSCWS for specialised treatment in cases of Interventional Cardiology, Cardiac Surgery, Vascular Surgery, Urology, Orthopaedics & Ophthalmology, Response from Alchemist Hospital, Panchkula, was still awaited, for providing similar facilities to the Members.

Members of RSCWS are requested to carry their ID cards of RSCWS & contact Mrs. Sonia S. Sajwan, Hospital Administrator, Mukat Hospital & Sh. Anurag Keshyap, Manager Corporate, Fortis Hospital, for availing these facilities

Railway Board, in response to an issue raised by RSCWS under RTI, had earlier agreed to reimburse the Medical Treatment taken from unrecognised Private Hospitals on CGHS rates, in case of Emergency. While PGI & Government College & Hospital, Sector 32, Chandigarh, had been accepted, at the instance of RSCWS, as “Referral Hospitals” by the Railways, but much difficulty was experienced by a large number of retired Railway employees and Officers settled in the Tri-City in case of serious Emergency due to lack of any Recognised Specialised Hospital in this area. The above mentioned arrangement now worked out with Fortis & Mukat Hospitals, will partly mitigate their hardship.

NOTICE

Next General Body Meeting of RSCWS shall be held

On Saturday, 5th July, 2008, at 5 to 7 PM

At SHIVALIK PUBLIC SCHOOL, (Basement Auditorium), Sector 41 B, Chandigarh.

Members of RSCWS are requested to please attend positively - along with their Spouses
& other Senior citizens of Railways.

SPECIAL PROGRAMME - INAUGURATION OF NEW WEBSITE OF SOCIETY www.rscws.com

BY SHRI S. G. MISHRA, AGS AIRF & PRESIDENT NRMU

Harchandan Singh, Secretary, RSCWS

ORGANISATIONAL NEWS – A HALF YEARLY APPRAISAL**RSCWS HONOURS OCTOGENARIANS & OTHER SENIOR CITIZEN MEMBERS**

AGM - 20 Members (over 80 years & 65 years of age, were honoured during the Annual General Body Meeting of RSCWS, Chandigarh, held on 21.1.08. They were presented Mementos of "Open Hand" – the symbol of City Beautiful.

OCTOGENARIANS HONOURED

1. SH. AVTAR SINGH, Ex ASM, AMBALA
2. SH. BANSI LAL GUPTA, Ex PFO, WS, AMRITSAR
3. SH. D.S. BEDI, Ex ACMT, DSL SHED, LUDHIANA
4. SH. K.C. ARORA, Ex Sr. TIA, CHANDIGARH
5. SH. MOHAN SINGH, Ex GUARD,
6. SH. S.S. PAUL, Ex SHOP SUPT, PLANT DEPOT, MGS
7. SH. TRILOK SINGH, Ex AME, LUDHIANA

SENIOR CITIZENS - OVER 65 YEARS HONOURED**SENIOR CITIZENS - OVER 65 YEARS OF AGE HONOURED**

8. SH. B.S. JASRA, Ex DEN NER, SAMASTIPUR
9. SH. CHAMAN LAL CHAWLA, Ex IOR, JAGADHRI
10. CHARAN SINGH BHATIA, Ex TFC. A/C, JALANDAR

11. SH. GURDARSHAN SINGH, Ex-DEN, FEROPUR
12. SMT JAGDISH Kaur HM, RLY SCHOOL, REWARI
13. SH. K.S. KATARI, Ex CME, RCF, KAPURTHALA
14. SH. MAST RAM, Ex Dy CE, NR, NEW DELHI
15. SH. N.P. MOHAN, Ex CE, W.RLY. CG, MUMBAI
16. SH. O.S. DOGRA, Ex CME PLG, NR, NEW DELHI
17. SH. PIARA SINGH, Ex SSE, RCF, KAPURTHALA
18. SH. SHANTI PARKASH KHANNA, Ex JE, JAGADHRI WORKSHOP
19. SH. SURESH KUMAR DEWAN, ExSE, JABALPUR
20. SH. SARDAR SINGH, Ex JE-1, NR WS, AMRITSAR

Harchandan Singh, Secretary, RSCWS, presented Annual Report, highlighting following achievements of the Society, besides referring to other matters of interest:

i) Recognition of PGI & Medical College & Multi-specialty Hospital Sector 32, for the first time by the Railways as "Referral Hospitals" in the year 2005, after years of struggle & efforts.

ii) Recommendation by CMS Ambala for Recognition by the Railways of Private Hospital, Silver Oaks Hospital, Mohali, after prolonged efforts by the Society. (*Efforts were being made for early decision on the case, by the Railway Board and for forwarding thereof by the GM to the Railway Board*)

iii) Raising of many issues by the Society under RTI, resulting in the Railway Board, defining the of "Conditions of Emergency" for Medical Treatment in Private Hospitals entitled for Medical Reimbursement, on CGHS rates.

iv) Holding of Medical Camps & Seminars once in every 3 months in conjunction with quarterly Meetings.

vi) Regular publication of quarterly News letter / News Bulletin of the Society – for keeping the Members fully informed about the administrative decisions relating to Pensioners and Senior Citizens.

vii) Increase in enrolment of Membership and number of Life Members as well as Donations from members.

Medical Seminar:- Dr Manoj Wadhwa, Sr. Orthopaedic Surgeon, Fortis Hospital, and Dr Ashok Chordhia, Medical Director, Fortis gave very interesting talks on Ortho-porosis and "Impact of genetics in old age" respectively. This was followed by a Medical Camp where Doctors of Fortis Hospital examined and advised the Members. Both the Doctors were presented with mementos. Meeting ended after a vote of thanks to Fortis and to all the Members. This was followed by a community lunch

NEW MEMBERS NOMINATED TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Executive Committee, decided, in the meeting held on 17.2.08, to publish its News Bulletin under the title "Rail Sampark" and to intensify the membership campaign both through the "Rail Sampark" & personal contacts.

Three new members – namely Shri N. P. Mohan, Shri T. S. Chawla and Shri O.S. Dogra, were nominated to the Executive Committee, against the vacancies created due the sad demise of Shri NS Bhangoo and Shri DS Bedi.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECIDES TO HAVE A WEBSITE OF THE SOCIETY, FORMS SUB-COMMITTEES

Executive Committee of RSCWS, in its meeting held on 25.5.08, decided to have an independent Website of RSCWS to keep the members fully informed about the Rules, Orders and Policies of the Government about the welfare of the Pensioners and the Senior Citizens in general.

Special Sub-committees, comprising of following Members, were nominated by the President, RSCWS, in consultation with Executive Committee, as per provisions of the constitution:

<u>Editorial Board</u> <u>"Rail Sampark" & Website</u>		<u>Catering Committee</u>	<u>Event Management Committee</u>
1	Sh. MS Batra	Sh Parkash Chand	Sh Bipin Bihari (<i>Convener</i>)
2	Sh. Harchandan Singh (<i>Editor – Rail Sampark & Web Site Adm.</i>)	Sh Amrik Singh (<i>Convener</i>)	Sh Jaswant Singh
3	Sh. NP Mohan	Sh Harbans Singh	Sh HS Sachdeva
	<u>Venue Committee</u>	Sh Sukhdev Singh	Sh Man Singh
1	Sh. MS Batra	Sh Sunder Singh	Sh Ak Sud
2	Sh. Harchandan Singh	<u>Accounts & ID Committee</u>	Sh MS Bhalla
3	Sh HD Sharma	Sh KS Bhandari (<i>Cashier</i>)	<u>Audit Committee</u>
4	Sh. SS Sahota	Sh Kapil Dev	Sh HS Sachdeva
			Sh TS Chawla (<i>S. Audit</i>)

MEMBERS WHOSE SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2008 IS STILL DUE. ARE REQUESTED TO PAY IT EARLY – @ RS 150 P.A.

OR SEND IT BY CHEQUE IN FAVOUR OF "RAILWAY SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE SOCIETY" -

TO SH. K. S. BHANDARI, TREASURER, RSCWS, 3098, SECTOR 22 CHANDIGARH (PH. 2711641 & 9815012641).

Secretary, RSCWS

FACILITIES / BENEFITS GIVEN TO SENIOR CITIZENS BY DIFFERENT MINISTRIES / DEPARTMENTS

(Compiled & updated by Sh. Harchandan Singh, from the National Portal of Government of India)

1 MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

1. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is the nodal Ministry responsible for welfare of the Senior Citizens. It has announced the National Policy on Older Persons which seeks to assure older persons that their concerns are national concerns and they will not live unprotected, ignored and marginalized. The National Policy aims to strengthen their legitimate place in the society and to help older people to live the last phase of their life with purpose, dignity and peace. The National Policy on Older Persons inter alia visualizes support for financial security, health care and nutrition, shelter, emphasis upon education, training and information needs, provision of appropriate concessions, rebates and discounts etc. to Senior Citizens and special attention to protect and strengthen their legal rights such as to safeguard their life and property. The National Policy on Older Persons confers the status of senior citizen to a person who has attained the age of 60 years.
2. The Ministry has also written to all the Ministries/State Governments concerned for adopting a uniform age of 60 years for conferring the status of senior citizen to a person and for extending facilities/concessions to them *at Annexure I – (To be printed in next issue).*
3. The Ministry is also implementing following schemes for the benefit of Senior Citizens:
 - a. The Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self Help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/multi-service centres for older persons. Under this Scheme, one time construction grant for old age homes/multi-service centre is provided.
 - b. An Integrated Programme for Older Persons has been formulated by revising the earlier scheme of “Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Programmes relating to the Welfare of the Aged”. Under this Scheme, financial assistance upto 90% of the project cost is provided to NGOs for establishing and maintaining old age homes, day care centres, mobile medicare units and to provide non-institutional services to older persons.

2. MINISTRY OF FINANCE

1. Exemption limit from Income Tax for Senior Citizens was raised to Rs Rs 2.25 lacs in Budget for the year 2008-09.
2. Senior Citizens are excluded from “One by Six” scheme for filing the Income Tax Return under proviso Section 139(1).
3. For Senior Citizen, deduction in respect of medical insurance premia is upto Rs. 15,000/- under Section 80 D. RBI has permitted higher rates of interest on saving schemes of Senior Citizens (persons having the age of 65 years and above). Accordingly, w.e.f. 15.05.01, Banks permitted 0.5 per cent higher rate of interest on fixed deposits.
4. Separate counters are marked for Senior Citizens at the time of filing the Income Tax Returns. Senior Citizens of the age of 65 year and above as on 31st March of the assessment year, must be a pensioner and should come personally, get priority while submitting their Income Tax Returns. Besides, on the spot assessment facility is also provided.

3. INDIAN RAILWAYS

1. Indian Railways provide 30% concession in all classes and trains including Rajdhani/Shatabadi trains for both males and females aged 60 years and above.
2. Indian Railways also have the facility of separate counters for Senior Citizens for purchase/booking/cancellation of tickets.

4. MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT

Reservation of two seats for senior citizens in front row of the buses of the State Road Transport Undertakings (ASTRU).

5. Ministry of Telecommunications.

Telephone connection is given on priority to senior citizens of age 65 years and above **6. HIGH COURTS**
On the request of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India has advised Chief Justices of all High Courts in the country to accord priority to cases involving older persons and ensure their expeditious disposal.

6. OLD AGE PENSION

1. Under the National Old Age Pension Scheme, Central Assistance of Rs. 75/- p.m. is granted to destitute older persons above 65 years. This Scheme has been transferred to the State Plan w.e.f. 2002-03.
2. Under the Annapurna Scheme, free food grains (wheat or rice) upto 10 kg. per month are provided to destitute older persons 65 years or above who are otherwise eligible for old age pension but are not receiving it.

NOTICE

1. **Members are requested to get their Membership ID cards of self & spouse issued by the Cashier. Please give 2 stamp size photos if your ID card of RSCWS has not yet been issued.**
2. **If ID card has already been issued earlier, please get it revalidated every year.**
- Revalidation is not required for “Life Members”.
3. **Members are requested to inform us about their email ID, if any, for faster & greater inter action**

Senior Citizens! Do visit regularly your own website <http://rscws.com>
IT IS A MULTIFARIOUS WEBSITE FOR RAILWAY PENSIONERS & OTHER SENIOR CITIZENS

- Secretary, RSCWS

ANOMALIES IN SIXTH PAY COMMISSION REPORT**RSCWS SUBMITS MEMORANDUM TO EMPOWERED COMMITTEE**

Railway Senior Citizens Welfare Society (RSCWS), Chandigarh, has submitted a detailed Memorandum on the major Anomalies in the Report of the Sixth Pay Commission, to the Empowered Committee of Secretaries, appointed by the Government of India, to process the Recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission. The committee is headed by the Cabinet Secretary Shri K.M. Chandrasekhar, I.A.S. A separate Memorandum has also been submitted to the Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare, Ministry of Personnel, P.G. & Pensions. Memoranda are accompanied with a number of Annexures, critically analysing the anomalies mentioned therein.

In the main issues raised in the Memoranda are DISPARITY IN PENSION OF PRE AND POST 1-1-2006 RETIREES, INCOHERENCE IN UPGRADATION OF PAY SCALES WITH RESULTANT EFFECT ON PENSIONS, NEED FOR INCREASED PENSION FOR OLDER PENSIONERS (OF 70 YEARS AND ABOVE INSTEAD OF 80 & ABOVE), UNJUST EXCLUSION OF 'EFFECT OF MERGER OF 50% DEARNESS ALLOWANCE & NEED FOR GRANT OF INTERIM RELIEF (PENDING DECISION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF REPORT).

SECRETARY RSCWS MEETS LEADERS OF JCM & ALL INDIA CONFEDERATION OF PENSIONERS

Secretary RSCWS, Harchandan Singh, also had detailed discussions with the Members of the JCM (Staff Side), Sh Umraomal Purohit, President AIRF, Sh. JP Chaubey, General Secretary AIRF and Sh Raghvaiaha General Secretary, NFIR, and urged them to take up the issues raised in these Memoranda, at their level also.

VIEWS IN MEDIA - N.P. MOHAN, EX-CHIEF ENGR. WESTERN RAILWAY & MEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, RSCWS**SIXTH CENTRAL PAY COMMISSION - INJUSTICE TO OLD PENSIONERS**

Notwithstanding the meagre increase of about 15 % in pension that most of old pensioners are likely to get with the implementation of the report and distorted up gradation of existing pay scales with consequent effect on pension, there is lot of inequality in the proposed pensions of pre and post 1-1-06 retirees, although the parent scale and the new Pay Band is the same for both. The pension of the old pensioners is less in almost all cases (irrespective of the pay scale they have retired from) and the difference in pension goes up to Rs. 6785 p.m.

This is gross injustice to old pensioners who have retired from the same pay scale wherefrom post 1-1-06 employee retires at the initial level of the pay band. This should be looked into by the Empowered Committee set up by the Govt.

Published in Letters to Editor, in The Tribune and Hindustan Times on 7th May, 2008.

JCM STAFF SIDE & PENSIONERS FEDERATION DISCUSSES ISSUES WITH SECRETARY D.O.P.**Meeting with Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare****Note for Improvements/Modifications submitted**

Shri Umraomal Purohit, Secretary, Staff Side, National Council, JCM for Central Government Employees, accompanied by Shri S.K. Vyas, Coordinating Secretary, NCCP and other important leaders of Pensioners' Organizations held a meeting with the Secretary, Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi on 15.4.2008 and apprised him of their views about recommendations of Sixth Central Pay Commission on Pension & Pensioners.

Later on, Shri Umraomal Purohit, Secretary, Staff Side submitted a note to the Secretary, Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare seeking improvements/modifications in Pay Commission's recommendations on Pension & Pensioners, as under:

Quantum of Pension & raising thereof after 75 years of age (instead of 80 yrs), Reduction of Qualifying Service for full Pension, Restoration Commuted Pension after 12 years, Revision of Family Pension norms, Ex-gratia over & above pension, Parity in Pension, Fitment Benefit to the past pensioners, Medicare for Pensioners, Ex-gratia to CPF/SRPF retirees, Raising of Minimum Pension etc.

How to calculate - Revised Pension (as on 1-1-2006) – as per 6th CPC Recommendations

(Ref.- Fitment Table Annex 5.1.1-SCPC Report)

1. Thumb-rule - Multiply Existing Basic Pension by 2.14 to get revised pension.

(Factor of 2.14 is arrived at by adding 40% of Pension as Fitment Benefit & 74 % D.A. on Pension plus Basic Pension).

2. The above will be subject to the provision that it shall not be lower than 50% of the minimum of the Pay Band with Grade Pay corresponding to the pre-revised Scale from which the Pensioner had retired.

N. P. Mohan, Ex CE, W.R.

VISIT THE FOLLOWING LINK TO KNOW ABOUT THE VARIOUS FACILITIES & BENEFITS GIVEN TO SENIOR CITIZENS

BY DIFFERENT MINISTRIES & DEPARTMENTS

<http://www.rscws.com/senior-citizens.htm>