



DEDICATED TO THE  
CAUSE OF PENSIONERS  
SINCE 1991

## RAILWAY SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE SOCIETY

(Estd. 1991, Regd. No. 1881 – Under Registration of Societies Act)

HQ: 32 Phase 6, Sector 56, Mohali, Chandigarh – 160055

Website: <http://rscws.com>

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

No. RSCWS/HO/CHD/

Dated: 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2020

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman,  
Hon'ble Minister for Finance,  
Government of India,  
North Block, New Delhi-110001.  
Email ID [fmo@nic.in](mailto:fmo@nic.in)

Respected Madam,

Sub: Freezing of Dearness Allowance to Central Govt. employees and Dearness Relief to Central Govt. pensioners at current rates till July 2021 - Appeal to encourage voluntary contribution to the National cause instead of freezing DA & DR

Reference: MOF, Dept. of Expenditure OM No.1/1/2020-E-II (B), dated 23-04-2020

Respected Madam,

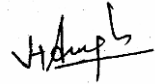
- 1) RSCWS (*Railway Senior Citizens Welfare Society*) fully supports the Government in its all-out efforts to combat COVID-19.
- 2) RSCWS and its members have contributed whatever possible to the PM CARES Fund, both collectively and individually.
- 3) It is surprising that instead of encouraging voluntary contributions to the National cause, the Government has decided vide its orders cited above, to freeze the DA/DR of the employees and the pensioners at the current level till July, 2021 and that *"No arrears for the period from 1st January 2020 till 30th June 2021 shall be paid."* This will lead to great hardship for the pensioners.
- 4) DA & DR are a part of Pay & Pension and can only be deducted either as a punitive measure or with the consent of the employee or the Pensioner concerned. The freezing of DA/DR amounts to punitive action, which directly affects the morale of employees and the pensioners, who have whole-heartily contributed to the efforts to fight COVID and other calamities faced by the country.
- 5) a) Voluntary contributions to the National cause through dedicated instruments, by the Pensioners themselves would be a better proposition and will strengthen the National cause more effectively and will carry a greater goodwill among all concerned.  
b) Ceiling limit for Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS) (as fixed in 2004) may please be raised from Rs.15 Lakh to at least Rs.30 Lakh under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act keeping in view the heavy inflation since it was fixed in 2004. This will encourage the Pensioners to invest in this scheme and will also provide substantial funds to the Government to meet with the immediate crisis. It will save the hard-pressed pensioners from heavy financial loss.  
c) Infrastructure Bonds (or any other similar Bonds) may be floated by the Government with provision for appropriate deduction under Section 80CC of Income Tax Act. This will enable the Government to raise funds for the infrastructure in. This

will bring in substantial funds to the Government to meet its objectives without hurting the senior citizens.

- 6) We do realize that a lot of funds are required to combat impact of Coronavirus. But freezing of DR will cause a lot of hardship to the Pensioners especially due to heavy inflation which is bound to increase in the post-COVID-19 scenario.
- 7) A large number of Pensioners have heavy liabilities, social obligations and have to bear heavy medical expenses as they grow older. They would be very seriously hard hit to freezing of Dearness Relief
- 8) It is, therefore, requested that, in consideration of the foregoing submissions, the following steps may please be considered sympathetically:
  - a) To defreeze & release additional installments of Dearness Relief to Central Government pensioners;
  - b) To encourage voluntary contribution to the National cause through following measures:
    - i) Raise ceiling limit for saving instruments like Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS) from Rs.15 Lakh to at least Rs.30 Lakh, with exemption under Section 80C of IT Act.
    - ii) Floating of "Infrastructure Bonds of Government of India" with suitable Tax incentives to raise funds for requisite infrastructure.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,



(Harchandan Singh),  
Secretary General, RSCWS

*Copy for Information & favourable consideration of our foregoing submissions:*

- i) Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi-110001;
- ii) Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble MOS Personnel, PG & Pensions, North Block, New Delhi-110001;
- iii) Cabinet Secretary, Government of India, Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi-110004;
- iv) Secretary Finance (Expenditure), North Block, New Delhi-110001.