

# RAILWAYS SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE SOCIETY

(Estd. 1991, Regd. No. 1881 – Under Registration of Societies Act), Website <http://rscws.com>

## HISTORY, STRUGGLE & ACHIEVEMENTS OF RSCWS - 1991-2011 - A RESUME ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF FORMATION

### 1. HISTORY & DEVELOPMENT OF RSCWS

- i) **FORMATION:** RSCWS was formed in early 1991 and Registered in June, 1991 under Firms & Societies Registration Act, - To promote and to protect the interests, rights and privileges of the retired Railway officials; and to promote the interest, rights and privileges and to foster & to promote unity, integrity and cooperation amongst the members and to create atmosphere of brotherhood.
- ii) **FOUNDER MEMBERS:** Shri Pritam Singh (Ex CPI, NDLS), Shri M. S. Batra (Ex Ch. Controller UMB), (Late) Shri Harbans Singh (Ex SPO NR), Late Shri Kapoor Singh (Ex SM Mansa, (Late) Shri Gurcharan Singh AME ND, Shri Avtar Singh (Ex SM UBC), (Late) Shri A N Bajaj (Ex Traffic Insp. (A/C) were the founder Members of RSCWS.
- iii) **SOME GROUND REALITIES IN 1991:** Chandigarh & its surrounding areas lacked any Medical Facility for Railway Staff and Pensioners in the Tri-city of CHD, PKL & MHL in 1991 – even though their strength was large and fast growing. There was no Administrative Office of the Railways in the Area even to get Passes. Railway Staff and Pensioners were totally dependent at that time, on the Health Unit at Kalka and the Hospital at Ambala Cantt.– which are 30 to 50 away.
- iv) **THE TWIN ISSUES:** RSCWS took up the issues of Recognition of Hospitals by the Railways in and around Chandigarh and facility for issue of Passes locally. Numerous Memorandums were submitted to the authorities concerned on these issues besides some other matters of interest.

### 2. ACHIEVEMENTS

- i) **Lock-up Dispensary:** Finally, after a lot of efforts by RSCWS, a Lock-up Dispensary was opened behind Chandigarh Railway Station – in 1994-95 firstly for 2 days a week and later on for 3 days a week. However, the Doctor was subsequently withdrawn for the third day due to lack of availability of adequate number of Doctors. The availability of Doctor on all the three days; in a week has been resumed after continuous efforts by RSCWS.
- ii) **Issue of Complimentary Passes:** After a lot of efforts by RSCWS, the Complimentary Passes to Pensioners – which were earlier issued only by the RRB Chandigarh, were now being issued additionally by the RCT in Sector 9 and also by the Station Superintendent Chandigarh,.
- iii) **Empanelment of Hospitals:**
  - a) With the protracted representations by RSCW spread over many years by RSCWS, PGI Sector 12, Chandigarh and Government Medical College Sector 32 Chandigarh were finally accepted as Referral Hospitals by the CMS Ambala in 2005.
  - b) Fortis Hospital got empanelled with RSCWS in 2007 – giving 20% concession on Tests and CGHS Rates on 6 main Specialties to Members of RSCWS.
  - c) Northern Railway finally Recognised Fortis Hospital Mohali in 2009 for Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery – on reference by CMS Ambala and directly in case of Emergency – both on Cashless Billing System. The Empanelment was belatedly extended for 1 year up to September 2011. Further extension is under process – and may be finalized early.
  - d) IVY Hospital Mohali was initially recognized for one year for 4 Specialties but the same had not been extended due to lack of referred patients' for these Specialties.
  - e) Alchemist Hospital Panchkula had applied for Empanelment for all major specialties. The case is still under process.
  - f) Representative of Malhotra Lab. now collects samples for tests from “Lock-up Dispensary” CHD on every Tuesday & report comes back on next week to CHD.

### 3. ISSUES BEFORE THE PENSIONERS TO DAY

RSCWS has constantly been representing on numerous issues at National & Local levels

- A) **AT NATIONAL LEVEL:** Following issues were raised by RSCWS at National Level through Memorandums to the National Anomalies Committee (NAC), Prime Minister, Finance Minister, Minister & Secretary DOP, Ministry of Railways and Members of Parliament etc.

1. **Reg: Income Tax:**
    - a) Exemption of Pension from Income Tax
    - b) Exemption of income up to Rs.5 lakhs from Income Tax
    - c) Exemption of DA/DP from Income Tax – as recommended by Fifth CPC
  2. Removal of Anomalies in Pension after Sixth Pay Commission
  3. Correct fixation of Pension of Pre-2006 Pensioners - Minimum Pension based on correct modified parity to Pre-2006 Pensioners
  4. Equitable Fitment Benefit to Serving Employees and Pensioners
  5. Parity in rise of Pension of Pre-2006 Pensioners in Scales of S-4 to S-23 with S-24 to S-34
  6. Additional pension to Pensioners in the age group of 65 to 80 Years
  7. Revision of Fixed Medical Allowance to Rs 1200 PM
  8. Issue of Revised PPOs – after Sixth Pay Commission
- B) C) LOCAL ISSUES OF PENSIONERS IN THE TRI-CITY (Chandigarh, Panchkula & Mohali)**
- i) Upgrading of Lock-up Dispensary for Chandigarh, Panchkula & Mohali
  - ii) Extension of Empanelment of Fortis Hospital, Mohali
  - iii) Empanelment of Alchemist Hospital Panchkula
  - iv) Empanelment of Hospitals for left out specialties under RSCWS
  - v) Expeditious settlement of claims for Reimbursement & advising of reasons for deductions
  - vi) Supply of medicines prescribed by Specialised Doctors – instead of cheap alternatives
  - vii) Supply of adequate quantity of Medicines in Chronic Cases

**C) ISSUES RAISED UNDER RTI**

Following issues were raised & partly resolved by RSCWS under Right to Information (RTI) Act:

SL NO	MAIN ISSUES RAISED	RESPONSE OF RAILWAYS
1.	Conditions of Medical Emergency (under which direct treatment can be taken from a Government, Recognised Private Hospital or Un- Recognised Private Hospital.	i) Condition defined ii) CGHS Conditions accepted by Railways
2.	Concessions to Senior Citizens in Tatkal Service on Rly	Not admissible
3.	Policy reg Med Treatment of Railway Beneficiaries	Rly Bds letter dated 16-04-07
4.	List of Private Hospitals and Diagnostic Centers recognized and policy of the Railways regarding the same	List supplied & published. List posted on Website
5.	Policy regarding Referring of cases to Government / Recognised Private Hospitals	Policy defined
6.	Policy & procedure reg. Reimbursement of medical expenses	Policy defined
7.	Rules / Instructions regarding issue of Medicines by Railway Hospitals / Health Units I Dispensaries, in regard supply of Medicines prescribed by Specialists	Policy defined
8.	Issue of PPOs of Pre & Post-2006 Retirees	Instruction reiterated
9.	Revised Pension after Fifth & Sixth CPC	Proposed changes not accepted by Govt
10	FMA to Members of RELHS – 97 – Procedure for claiming	Procedure re-defined
11	Minimum Service required for joining RELHS	Matter under consideration
12	Opening of RELHS for new entrants	Under consideration. May be opened by year end

**D) ON ORGANISATIONAL FRONT**

- i) Regular Monthly Meetings of Executive Committee & Quarterly Meetings of General Body
- ii) Medical Seminars and Medical Seminars in conjunction with General Body Meetings since 2005
- iii) Continuous expansion of Membership & Associate Membership
- v) Launching of News letter of the Society in 2005 – which has become very useful & popular and is now named as “Pensioners’ Rail Sampark”
- vi) Launching of Website of RSCWS: [www.rscws.com](http://www.rscws.com) in May, 2008 – keeping the Members well informed about administrative orders, organizational activities and other areas of interest.
- vii) Issue of ID Cards to all Members
- viii) Honouring of Senior Citizen Members at 65 years, 80 years & 90 years
- ix) Honourary Membership of RSCWS to Railway Senior Citizens above 90 years of age
- x) Honouring of Founder Members.