



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

Website : www.rscws.com

AFFILIATED TO BHARAT PENSIONERS' SAMAJ (BPS)

IDENTIFIED BY DOP&PW - UNDER PENSIONERS' PORTAL GOVT. OF INDIA

MEMBER, SCOVA (STANDING COMMITTEE FOR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES) (GOI)

DEDICATED TO
THE CAUSE OF
PENSIONERS
SINCE 1991

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FOR FREE CIRCULATION TO MEMBERS RSCWS



ALWIDA TWENTY TWO - SWAAGATAM 2023

by Tejinder Singh Kalra, Chairman/RSCWS

In life it is always a matter of Give and Take. We have given 30 to 40 best of our years in the service of the nation, through our organisation IR. Decline in different bodily as well as mental attributes, with advancing years, is an unstoppable, continuous process, for which we must remain prepared but keep fighting fit all the same. We expect our system – the ministry of Railways, other government set-ups and the society at large, to take better care of us in our twilight years. On our part, RSCWS shall continue to contribute to the society, to the best of our resources & capabilities, mainly towards the cause of the needy & the underprivileged citizens, by way of donations through our Social Welfare Fund and also participating actively in different social campaigns, the latest being

'SwachhataAbhiyaan' and recording of Digital Life Certificates (DLCs) with Face Recognition at home, for the sick & the super seniors, both railway pensioners as well as others.

Our main thrust areas have been upgradation of Medical & Health care facilities, conducting medical seminars and resolving Pension related matters. We have been regularly & rigorously following up with the local Rly Divn, the HQ office, Rly Board, CGHS, even directly with the reputed private hospitals, Min of Health & Family Welfare, DOP & PW, BPS, SCOVA etc. and disseminating related information to all concerned through our quarterly journal, the Pensioners Rail Sampark. In the process our society has attained all round recognition amongst railway pensioners throughout the country. We all should feel proud of our activities & achievements so far, particularly in the last three very tough years, and resolve to do even better by our collective efforts in the New Year.

Our society which is now in its 32nd year of existence, has been anchored diligently, without break so far, by the Secretary General Sh. Harchandan Singh. Other members, particularly the relatively younger ones should now voluntarily come forward to gradually take up the reins.

Wishing Good Luck, Health, Happiness & Peace of mind in the NEW YEAR 2023 to you all and your extended families!

MESSAGE FROM K.P.SINGH, President, RSCWS.



I wish a very Happy & Healthy New Year to all our members, other Pensioners & their families.

RSCWS has been making continuous efforts for resolving the problems, both general and individual for retired and elderly railwaymen and even other pensioners living in the Chandigarh Tricity, and even in other parts of the country. The Society has made yeoman efforts at improving the medical infrastructure and healthcare facilities by taking up related issues with the Division, Zonal Railway, Railway Board, and the concerned central ministries, holding very useful medical seminars, besides taking up individual cases pertaining to the issue of PPOs, and other pension-related matters.

All this has been possible due to the untiring efforts of our dedication and initiative of our Secretary General, Mr. Harchandan Singh, whose devotion and efforts need to be highly appreciated. The Rail Sampark Journals, issued every quarter are a storehouse of knowledge regarding the latest circulars and instructions on medical, and pension-related matters. I am confident that the good work being done by the Society will continue in the future. However for this, we need some of the younger members to come forward and join in our effort.

**LIST OF PVT. HOSPITALS EMPANELLED BY RAILWAYS
IN CHANDIGARH, MOHALI & PANCHKULA AS ON 02-01-2023**

- FOR CASHLESS TREATMENT OF RAILWAY MEDICAL BENEFICIARIES (EMPLOYEES & RELHS OPTees) WITH UMID CARD
ON REFERRAL BY CMS NR UMB OR IN EMERGENCY ON APPROVAL OF CMS WITHIN 24 HOURS

Sl.No.	Hospital Name	Contract up to	Contact No.
1.	MAX Super Specialty Hospital, Phase-6, Mohali	18-02-2023	0172-6652000
2.	Indus multi-Specialty Hospital, Phases 1& 3B2, Mohali	07-07-2023	0172- 5044945
3.	Mukat Hospital & Heart Institute, Sector 34-C, Chandigarh.	15-10-2023	98720-48149
4.	Grecian Super Specialty Hospital, Sec.- 69, Mohali	26-08-2023	98996-49020
5.	Ivy Multi speciality Hospital, Sector 71, Mohali	15-12-2022 (Extention under process)	9988823456 8699999914
6.	Amar Hospital, Sector-70, Mohali	12-03-2023	0172-5037683
7.	Eden Critical Care Hospital, Industrial Area, CDG	06-08-2023	0172 4123400
8.	Drishti Eye Hospital, Sector-10, Panchkula.	13-12-2023	0172-2571572 98033-33344
Lab.	Spiral CT & MRI; Sector 44, CDG	20-12-2022 (Extn. Under process)	0172 4064555 98142-52733
Lab.	Atulaya Health Care; SCO 112-113, Sector 8-C, CDG	15-01-2023	0172 4558888 97795-99499

**ENTITLEMENT OF WARDS (as per 7th CPC Pay): General Ward: Up to Rs.47600/-;
Semi-Private Ward: Rs.47601/- to 63100/-; Private Ward: 63100/- & above**

*(NOTE: Entitlement of Hospital Wards has been Revised by the MOH&FW for CGHS Beneficiaries on 28-10-2022.
RSCWS is seeking its adoption by the Railway Board for Railway Beneficiaries. (Please see details on Page ---)*

HOSPITALS EMPANELLED WITH RSCWS IN TRI-CITY (CDG, PKL & MHL)

*(FOR TREATMENT AT CGHS RATES ON CASH PAYMENT IN OPD, IPD & DIAGNOSTICS, FOR RSCWS MEMBERS, ON
PRODUCTION OF MEMBERSHIP CARD OF RSCWS)*

Sl. No.	Name of Hospital	EMPANELLED FOR	Contact No
1.	FORTIS MULTI SPECIALITY HOSPITAL, SECTOR -62, PHASE-VIII, MOHALI	All available Specialties	172-5021222 98721-70582 (Dr. Ajinder Singh.)
2.	IVY MULTI-SPECIALITY HOSPITAL, SECTOR-71, MOHALI	All available Specialties	0172-7170000, (Abhishek: 86999-99914)
3.	MUKAT MULTI-SPECIALITY HOSPITAL, SECTOR -34 A, CDG	All available Specialties	0172-4344444 98720-48149
4	OJAS Multispeciality Hospital, Sector 26, Panchkula.	All available Specialties	(Parveen Kumar) 9779992668

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

**EMERGENCY NO. OF CMS NR DIVL. HOSPITAL AMBALA: 0171-2610093, HELPLINE MAIL: cmsambala97@gmail.com
Health Unit CDG, Phone No. 08558080223, 0172 2730356**

RAILWAY PENSIONERS! BE ACTIVE MEMBERS OF RSCWS FOR YOUR WELFARE & REDRESSAL OF GRIEVANCES.

PLEASE PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION @ RS.400/- PA OR LIFE MEMBERSHIP RS.3500/-

(ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FOR THOSE RESIDING OUTSIDE CHANDIGARH, PANCHKULA & MOHALI: RS.150/- PA/LM RS.1500/-)

DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS MAY BE deposited in the Bank account of RSCWS in favour of

"Railway Senior Citizens Welfare Society" in Punjab & Sind Bank, Sector 7, Chandigarh,

in SB Account No. 08561000100242, IFSC Code PSIB 0000856

OR MAY BE PAID TO SH. C.P. SINGH. TREASURER, RSCWS, 351, SAVITRI TOWER S 1, VIP ROAD, ZIRAKPUR (PB)-140603

OR IN THE GURDWARA SAHIB, SECTOR 8 D, CHANDIGARH WHERE HE WORKS AS AN ACCOUNTANT.

(PHONE NO. OF SH C P SINGH IS :- 98880-54477)

NOTE: MEMBERS, WHO SEND THEIR SUBSCRIPTION THROUGH BANK ACCOUNT, ARE REQUESTED TO FOLLOW IT UP WITH
A LETTER TO THE TREASURER (WITH THEIR FULL NAME, POSTAL ADDRESS & MOBILE NO.).

IN CASE OF NEW MEMBERS, MEMBERSHIP FORM & 2 STAMP SIZE PHOTOS EACH OF SELF & SPOUSE MAY BE SENT TO
HIM TO ENABLE HIM TO SEND THE RECEIPT & MEMBERSHIP CARD OF RSCWS.

**MINUTES OF GENERAL BODY MEETING OF RSCWS
HELD ON 26-11-2022 AT GOVT. MUSEUM AUDITORIUM, SECTOR 10, CHANDIGARH**

- A) Sh KP Singh, President RSCWS, presided with 54 Members attending the Meeting.
- B) Condolences: To start with, two minutes silence was observed in the memory of Members who left us forever in 2022.
- C) Observance of Constitution Day: The Meeting started with a pledge by the Members by reciting the Preamble of the Constitution to abide by the Constitution of India as advised by the DoP&PW.
1. Opening address by the President/RSCWS Sh. K.P.Singh :-
President welcomed the members and expressed his concern about the thin attendance.
2. Report of the Secretary General/RSCWS
- 2.1 The SG expressed regret for the delay in holding the GBM because of slowed co-ordination due to his illness and being out of station for long.
- 2.2 RSCWS is always taking up the pensioners' issues regarding pension and healthcare facilities at all levels, especially the empanelment of private hospitals and pursuing clearances of outstanding payments of these hospitals and now some of the hospitals (including MAX Mohali, IVY Mohali, Grecian Mohali, Indus Mohali, Mukat Chandigarh and DrishtiPanchkula) are giving cashless treatment to the Railway beneficiaries.
- 2.3 However, Fortis Mohali and Shri Guru Harkishan Sahib Multi specialty Hospital, Sohana have stopped cashless treatment to Railway beneficiaries due to alleged heavy deductions from their bills by the Railways.
- 2.4 Six hospitals in the tricity are giving treatment at CGHS rates to Members of RSCWS on cash payment which is a matter of relief for the members, especially in non-referral cases & for those who had not joined RELHS.
- 2.5 Previously Railway Beneficiaries & their relatives had to go to CMS/UMB for referral to empanelled Hospitals and for approval of treatment in emergency in private empaneled Hospitals. Now, as per revised orders issued by the Railway Board & the NR, the referral will be made by the ADMO CDG and in case of emergency ADMO/CDG will seek telephonic approval of CMS/UMB within 24 hrs. for treatment in empaneled hospitals.
- 2.6 Ten major ailments already circulated in the PRS are considered as emergency; for the rest we have to seek referral of Rly Doctor for treatment in the empaneled hospitals.
- 2.7 The present CMS/UMB is quite cooperative in ensuring the availability of Railway Doctor at HU/CDG for five days from Monday to Friday which was previously two days a week due to maternity leave of the regular ADMO/CDG.
- 2.8 With the efforts of RSCWS, revised PPO of Sh.H.S.Sachdeva was got issued and an arrear of Rs. 7 Lakhs paid to Sh.H.S.Sachdeva.
- 2.9 RSCWS is regularly updating the knowledge of the pensioners on healthcare related issues and pension related matters.
- 2.10 We all should come forward to strengthen the RSCWS so that we can fight for the causes of pensioners in getting their due rights.
- 2.11 SG thanked Sh. R.K.Dutta for carrying out Digital Life Certificates of the pensioners who are unable to go to the banks for any reason.
3. Presentation of Audited Balance Sheet for the year 2021-2022 by Finance Secy. Sh. Jaspal Singh
Audited balance sheet for the financial year 2021-22 was presented and approved by the members.
4. Medical Seminar
Dr. Saloni Garg BDS, dentist, gave a very useful presentation on dental problems, oral hygiene and dental care in old age. After the presentation a question answer session was held for further clarifications of the queries of the members.
5. Charter of Demands by RSCWS
Charter of demands was placed before the members and was approved for further action.
6. Swachhta Abhiyan: - a) SG informed that as advised by DoP&PW, all pensioner's associations had to participate in Swachhta Abhiyan in October, 2022 to promote the cleanliness. In this regard RSCWS donated four sets of mops, wipers, brooms and wet swabs costing Rs. 2802/- from its Social Welfare Fund to Govt. Model High School, Mauli Jagran, Chandigarh and counselled around one hundred students, along with their teachers about the importance of cleanliness and how to achieve the same in our day-to-day life.
- b) As a part of cleanliness drive and in consultation with the school management, it was proposed that RSCWS also donate a Grass & Bush cutting (Mowing) Machine to the above said School from its Social Welfare Fund, for better environment and all round swachhata of the premises & its grounds. General Body unanimously approved this proposal. and authorized the EC to finalize the suitable design, size &

Price (about or less than Rs.10,000/- as the case may be) of the Machine and to donate the same to the said School on behalf of RSCWS.

7. Introduction Of New Members: -

Sixteen new members enrolled during last six months, were introduced and welcomed.

8. Sh. C.S.Bajwa Ex.Divisional Secretary NRMU/UMB who retired on 31-10-2022 and

Sh. Nirmal Singh, the current Divisional Secretary NRMU/UMB, were welcomed to the Meeting by the SG as Special Invitees.

Sh. Nirmal Singh assured to raise the problems of tricity pensioners with the concerned authorities in UMB division regarding:(i) Issue of UMID card to the pensioners ii) upgradation of Health Unit/CDG to Sub Divisional Hospital with facilities of indoor treatment to Railway Beneficiaries iii) Releasing of undue recoveries from bills of empanelled hospitals; this particular hold up is causing inconvenience to the Railway beneficiaries)

He requested SG/RSCWS to give in writing all the concerned issues for proper follow up.

Sh. C.S.Bajwa addressed the General Body/RSCWS and assured all his support and asked that the following Lists & details of other problems be sent to him for pursuing the same with the concerned authorities.

i) List of pensioners who have not yet been able to get the UMID card.

ii) List of pensioners who have not yet got their revised PPOs as per 7th CPC.

9. Concluding Address by Sh. KP Singh, President/RSCWS:

9.1 Sh. KP Singh expressed his happiness for organizing the annual GBM and medical seminar.

9.2 Appreciated the efforts of SG/RSCWS for releasing of PRS and storing all important information at one place for the convenience of pensioners.

9.3 He appreciated that SG/RSCWS helped the pensioners in getting cashless treatment.

9.4 Thanked the executive especially Sh. R.K.Dutta for conducting digital life certificates for sick and needy pensioners at home.

9.5 He proposed that RSCWS should add an obituary column in its journal "Pensioners Rail Sampark" to remember the departed members.

9.6 Names of members who donate more than Rs. 500/- for Social Welfare Fund to be included in the PRS.

9.7 An encouragement should be given to members to share/write their experiences and these should be included in the PRS.

9.8 Younger members to be included in the executive so that society should run with pace of the time.

9.9 Health check-up camps should also be organized for the members at least twice a year.

10. Vote of thanks by SG/RSCWS

SG/RSCWS thanked the President, Members & the Special Invitees for their active participation.



Sh. NP Mohan, Patron & Ex-Chairman RSCWS being honoured by CCCGPA (Co-ordination Committee of Central Govt Pensioners Associations) Chandigarh on Pensioners Day, for his services to the Pensioners



201 DLCs of Senior Citizens Central Govt. & Railway Pensioners done at home <Sh. RK Datta, Vice President RSCWS Registering Digital Life Certificate (DLC) of bed ridden ShBipinBihariLal Sharma, (81) years old Pensioner his at home

OBITUARIES

We pay our homage to the following members of RSCWS, who had expired during the year 2022. May God rest their soul in peace and grant solace to the bereaved families.

1. Sh. VinodSaini Ex-SPO/JUDW, 2. ShJagjit Singh Ex-JE/KLK Workshop: 3. Sh. Harmoinder Singh, Ex-DEN/ UMB,4.: -Inderjit Singh, Ex-SWMI/ BH/ NDLS, 5.: -ShSatyaPrakashMaini, Ex- DD/ RDSO, 6. ShVinodSood, Ex- Ch. OS/ KLK WorkShop,7. MrsLuthra,w/o Sh. Vijay Kumar Luthra Ex-SS/CDG 8. - ShSuriender Singh Ex DME/JU, 9. - ShGurucharan Singh Ex TI/JHL. 10. - MrsHaribala Wife of Sh. Udain Singh Ex-- Principal, Staff College, Vadodra. 11. Mrs. Manjit Kalra Wife of Sh. TS Kalra EX-CEE

CHARTER OF DEMANDS OF RSCWS.**PART 1: MAIN DEMANDS OF RSCWS**

- 1) Implementation of the following Recommendations of 110th Report of Parliamentary Committee;
 - a) Additional Pension of 5% after 65 years of age, 10% after 70 years of age & 15 after 75 years of age. (Para 3.28).
 - b) Fixed Medical Allowance of Rs. 3,000/- P.M. instead of Rs.1,000/- P.M. (Para 3.21)
 - c) Upgrading of Medical Facilities to Pensioners at par with serving employees. (Para No. 3.23).
 - d) Grant of MACPS from 1.1.2006 instead of 1.9.2008). (Para 3.35)
 - e) Increase in Grant in Aid to Pensioners Associations. (3.31).
 - f) Treatment in Non-empaneled Hospitals in exigencies. (Para No. 3.19)
 - g) Settlement of Medical Facilities related Grievances on CPENGRAM Portal (Para 3.20).
 - h) Reconsideration of other points on which negative Replies have been given in 120th Report of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Pensioners grievances.
- 2) Restoration of 3 Slabs of DA (Dearness Allowance deducted for the period January, 2020 to July. 2021).
- 3) Restoration of Commuted portion of Pension after 12 years instead of 15 years in view of steep fall in rates of Interest.
- 4) Revision of PAY structure & Pension of Central Government employees & Pensioners every 5 years instead of every 10 years, in view of heavy inflation beyond the unrealistic prescribed price index and major economic changes during the existing period of 10 years.
- 5) Compatibility of Principles & Policy for determination of Pay, Allowances and Pension of MPs and Central Govt. Employees to ensure equity as per fundamental rights under article 14, 16 and 39 of the Constitution of India.
- 6) Grant of 50% of pay as pension after 10 years of service instead of 20 years of service at present to Central Government Employees, in order to ensure equity and justice under article 14, 16 & 39 of the Constitution although the MPs are given a Pension on completion of 5 years or even for a lesser period.
- 7) Extension of Old Pension Scheme to the employees recruited from & after 1st January 2004 at par with Pre 2004 employees instead of New Pension Scheme to ensure equity & justice.
- 8) Treatment of Railway Beneficiaries in Ayushman/CGHS/ECHS Hospitals & Dispensaries & in their Empaneled Hospitals all over India in reciprocity to the other Central Government employees / Ayushman Beneficiaries getting treatment in Railway Hospitals.
- 9) Exemption of FMA (Fixed Medical Allowance) from Income Tax under Section -80 D of IT Act.

Part 2: Demands of Chandigarh Tricity& surrounding areas

1. Upgrading of Health Unit NR Chandigarh to Sub-Divisional Hospital with adequate accommodation for requisite number of doctors, para -medical staff & investigation facilities like X- Ray & Pathological Lab etc. at an easily accessible Location near Chandigarh Railway Station under the Modernization Plan.
2. Provision of Health Unit or at least Lock -up dispensary at or around Mohali Railway Station as the existing Health Unit Chandigarh is nearly 20 to 30 Kilometers from the residence of a large number of Railway employees & Pensioners settled in Mohali & its surrounding areas up to Kharar, Kurali&Morinda.
3. a) Local Purchase of Medicines from the Tricity for Tricity based Pensioners instead of getting the same purchased from Ambala,
b) Developing a system to avoid double trip to the Health Unit for getting the prescribed medicines especially for the Chronic diseases.
4. a) Empanelment of More Private Hospitals in Chandigarh & Panchkula as large number of employees & Pensioners are settled there. - including Paras Hospital, Sector 22, Panchkula; Ojas Hospital, Sector 26, Panchkula; Grewal Eye Institute, Sector 9, Chandigarh, JP Eye Hospital, Phase 7, Mohali.
b) Revival of empanelment of Shri Guru Harkrishan Sahib Super Specialty Hospital, Sohana and Fortis Multi Specialty Hospital, Sector 69, Mohali.

Recommendations of 120th Report of Parliamentary Standing Committee**Action taken replies on 110th Report of PSC**

Submitted by the Department of Pensions & Pensioners' Welfare, of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

110 th Report		120 th Report of PSC	
Para	Main Recommendations	Para	Action taken reply by Deptts.
Recommendations / observations accepted by the Ministry			
3.12	Provisional Pension: _____ The Committee recommends that the Government may consider payment of "Provisional Pension" until the final pension is sanctioned to the retired Government servant.	1.4	The recommendation of the Committee has been complied vide DoPPW's OM No. 12(9)/2020 - P&PW(C)/E-6450 dated 23rd February, 2022.

3.23	<u>Upgrading of Medical Facilities to Pensioners</u> The Committee feels that either the provisions for medical facilities available to serving employees also needs to be extended to pensioners or instead of increasing FMA year after year, DoPPW may moot a proposal for introducing cashless health insurance facilities for such pensioners in nearby Private Health Centers in lieu of FMA on voluntary basis.	1.10	Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has separately mooted a proposal for increasing the amount of Fixed Medical Allowance in pursuance of the recommendation No.3.21 in the 110th Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee.
3.31	<u>Increase in Grant in Aid to Pensioners Association:</u> The Committee hopes that additional funds will be provided to deserving associations based on their previous performance and fund utilization.	1.14	A proposal for increase of Grant -in-Aid to Pensioners' Associations from Rs. 75000/ - p.a. to Rs. 5,00,000/- has been submitted to IFD.
4.7	<u>End-to-end digitization of the pension process and implementation of Bhavishya software.</u> The Committee recommends the Department to apprise it whether Bhavishya software renders end-to-end digitization of the whole pension process possible in its Action Taken Replies. The Department may also inform the Committee about the status of implementation of Bhavishya Software by non-civil Ministries in its Action Taken Replies	1.17 1.18	Bhavishya software enables online filling of Pension forms and digitized till generation of e-PPO which may further be stored in Digi Locker of the retiree. M/o Defense after introduction of SPARSH Portal, D/o Tele communication with SAMPANN Portal, Railways with ARPAN software and D/o Posts with SAP module have made considerable headway in digitization of the pension settlement of their employees.
Recommendations / observations which the committee does not desire to pursue in view of the replies given by the ministry			
3.3	<u>Increase in Insurance Amount & Premium as per 7th CPC:</u> The Committee recommends the Government to implement the recommendations of Seventh Central Pay Commission and increase the Insurance amount to Rs. 50,00,000, Rs.25,00,000 and Rs.15,00,000 for Group 'A', 'B' and C officers/ staff respectively with commensurate enhancement in monthly contribution of Rs.5000, Rs.2500 and Rs.1500 for respective Groups of officers/ staff.	2.1	Reference has been made to Department of Expenditure vide OM dated 21 December 2021.
3.4	<u>Savings and Insurance Funds:</u> The Committee agrees with the observation made by the Seventh Central Pay Commission in this regard and recommends that the ratio of Savings Fund to Insurance Fund be modified from the present 70:30 to 75:25 at the earliest.	2.4	Reference has been made to Department of Expenditure vide OM dated 21 December 2021.
3.10	<u>Single PF Account during entire Service:</u> The Committee recommends that the extant practice of opening multiple GPF accounts by an employee in transferable establishment should be done away with and that only single GPF account should be in operation throughout the duration of his/ her service.	2.7	Reference has been taken up with Comptroller General of Accounts (CGA) Vide ID Note dated 03.02.2022
3.19	<u>Treatment in Non-empaneled hospitals in exigencies:</u> The Committee is of the view there may be exigencies when the old age pensioners may directly approach non-empaneled hospitals for treatment without first approaching a Government hospital. They should not be deprived of their rightful entitlements under any circumstances. The Committee recommends the Department to play a pro-active role and pursue the matter with the Ministry of Health and Family welfare.	2.14	Inter-departmental consultations with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare will be held in this regard.

3.20	<u>Settlement of Medical Facility related grievances on CPENGRAM Portal:</u> The Government may also include settlement of medical facility related grievances of pensioners on the portal of CPENGRAMS as requested by pensioners and the DoPPW should work in tandem with Health Ministry in this regard.	2.18	Inter-departmental consultations with Ministry of Health & Family Welfare will be held in this regard.
3.21	<u>Enhancement of FMA (Fixed Medical Allowance):</u> The Committee recommends DoPPW to take up this issue of enhancement of Fixed Medical Allowance with the Finance Ministry as Rs.1000 is a very meager amount for an old age pensioner and apprise the views of the Finance Ministry to the Committee in its Action Taken Replies.	2.21	DoPPW will take-up the issue of enhancement of Fixed Medical Allowance with the Finance Ministry.
3.22	<u>FMA Surrender Certificate:</u> The committee recommends DoPPW and CGA that the procedural loopholes coming in this way should be plugged and ensure that all such pensioners should get FMA Surrender Certificates in a hassle-free manner through online mode under intimation to the bank concerned	2.24	Matter will be examined with the Controller General of Accounts (CGA)
3.28	<u>Agewise Additional Pension slabs:</u> The Committee is of the view that the Government should sympathetically consider the demand of Pensioners' Associations for 5% additional quantum of Pension on attaining the age of 65 years, 10% on 70 years, 15% on 75 years and 20% on 80 years to the Pensioners. The Committee recommends DoPPW to pursue vigorously with Finance Ministry and apprise the Committee of the outcome.	2.32 2.33	Proposal was again sent to Department of Expenditure to consider the proposal for grant of 5% additional quantum of Pension on attaining the age of 65 years, 10% on 70 years, 15% on 75 years and 20% on 80 years to the pensioners/family pensioners vide note dated 19.05.2022. Department of Expenditure vide their ID Note dated 01.06.2022 has stated that the proposal has been examined in that Department and in line with the views offered by Budget Division of DEA considering the fiscal perspective of the Govt., the proposal is not agreed to.
3.35	<u>Implementation date of MACPS – DOE: w.e.f.: 1-1-2006:</u> The Committee feels that DoPPW should pursue the matter of implementation of MACP w.e.f 1st January, 2006 . <u>Increment for those retiring on 30th June:</u> The Committee recommends DOPPW to consider the case of Pensioners' who retired on 30th June and were denied the increment on the plea that next date of retirement is 1st July.	2.36 2.37	Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its Order dated 28.04.2021 has upheld that date of implementation of the MACP Scheme is from 01.09.2008. Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad in its judgement held that, a person who retires on the last working day would not be entitled for any increment falling due on the next day and payable next day thereafter.
4.9	<u>Web for Comprehensive information Reg Status of Pension:</u> The Committee notes that CPAO's (Central Pension Accounting Office) web responsive Pensioners' service offers a single point web solution for pensioners to obtain comprehensive information relating to status of pensions and pension payments	2.40	Reference has been made to CPAO vide OM dated 09.03.2021.
4.14	<u>Submission of Pension Forms and Authorization of Family Pension one year before Retirement:</u> Head of Office in a Ministry/Department may consider obtaining the forms/ pension papers from the retiring Government servant one year instead of six months before his or her date of retirement. In cases of authorization of Family Pension on death of a serving Government servant, the concerned Ministry/Department may keep a record of dependents of serving employees in a descending order in terms of their eligibility	2.44 2.45	With the introduction of Bhavishya, the online pension sanction and tracking system, the period of six months provided in the existing rules for submission of pension papers by the retiring Government servant is considered to be adequate. The details of all members of the family are already being kept in record and the same are used for determining the eligibility of family members for family pension as and when the need arises.

5.11	<u>DLC (Digital Life Certificate) from Home:</u> The Committee recommends the Department to gradually expand the scope of DLC from Home project, Doorstep Banking and submission of DLC through postal agent to all major cities and towns. The Committee recommends the Department to ensure that Video based Customer Identification Process and Facial recognition technologies are operationalized on a wider scale at the earliest.	2.51	DoPPW will comply with the recommendations.
5.12	<u>Operating Pension withdrawal from comfort of home:</u> The Committee recommends the Department to take up the matter with Reserve Bank of India and Ministry of Finance and assess the feasibility of utilizing the Business Correspondent network to enable senior citizens to withdraw their pension amount from the comfort of their homes	2.56	As advised by DRPSC, DoPPW will take up the matter with RBI and M/o Finance.
5.16	<u>Appointment of Ombudsman for resolving Pension Disbursement Grievances:</u> The Committee also recommends the Department to discuss the matter with RBI and Ministry of Finance and assess the feasibility of appointing a Pensioner Ombudsman on the lines of Bank Ombudsman for resolving grievances arising out of disbursement of pensions.	2.59	As advised by DRPS C, DoPPW will take up the matter with RBI and M/o Finance.
<u>Recommendations/observations in respect of which the committee does not accept the reasons given by the government and reiterates its recommendations</u>			
2.10	<u>Audit Panels to identify core Grievance Prone areas:</u> The Committee recommends the Department to instruct the Ministries/Departments of Central Government to constitute social audit panels to identify core grievance prone areas and streamline their systems accordingly.	3.4 3.5	DoPPW has issued an advisory vide OM dated 6.08.2021 to all Ministries/Departments stipulating that every Nodal Officer undertake a weekly review of pending grievances in the portal. Further observation by the committee There has been a trend that Grievances are not accorded priority The grievances are not addressed on time and the quality of redressal is also a matter of concern. There is a <u>need for a system of reward and punishment while dealing with the grievances.</u> Otherwise, the guidelines and instructions issued by the DPPW will remain only on paper and the individuals/organizations will be violating them with impunity.
2.16	The Committee notes that there is a <u>steep increase in the number of re - registered grievances over the years.</u>	3.7 3.8	An Appeal module to attend such grievances/cases which have been summarily disposed of without appropriate qualitative action has been introduced in CPENGRAMs. Further observation by the committee The Department should devise a mechanism to punish erring officials by imposing monetary cost or recommending disciplinary action against them. It should not be left to the concerned organization
2.21	<u>Grievance Redressal & Appellant Mechanism:</u> The Committee desired that there should be a nodal authority in the department to whom complaints against the orders/decisions of individual Ministries/Departments can be made. The Committee hopes that the appellate mechanism shall be operationalized at the earliest.	3.10 3.11	There is already an Appellate Authority for each Ministry/Department who may take an appropriate decision on the appeal filed by the dissatisfied Petitioner. Further observation by the committee The appellate authority should be of appropriate seniority and he/she should also be empowered to recommend action as deemed fit against those officials who are habitually responsible for delayed action or summary disposal of grievances without any qualitative action.

2.30	<p>Virtual All India Pension Adalats: The Committee recommends the Department to harness video conferencing technology and hold Virtual All India Pension Adalats on a half-yearly basis so that the grievances which could not be resolved through CPENGRAMS during the six-month period and beyond can be redressed at once.</p> <p>The Committee urges the Department to ensure that pension Adalats cover all Ministries/Departments having long pending grievances on a rotational basis so that no Ministry/ Department is left out. Further, the Committee impresses upon individual 25 Ministries/Departments to ensure that pension adalats should be presided over by officers of appropriate level and reasonable seniority having sufficient knowledge of current as well as past rules and procedures.</p>	3.13 3.14	<p>DoP&PW is convening a Nation-wide Pension Adalat in third week of March, 2022, by each Ministry /Department /Organization/Field formation through Video Conferencing. Further observation by the committee Considering the effectiveness of Pension Adalats in disposing off the grievances of the pensioners, the frequency of conducting it should be increased. The Department should explore the feasibility of holding Pension Adalats regularly and more frequently. Further, as per the experience gained during COVID times, the practice of holding Pension Adalats through video conferencing should be promoted.</p>
2.33	<p>Pre-litigation Conciliation for pensioners' Grievances: The Committee accordingly recommends the Department to explore the feasibility of institutionalizing an alternative dispute resolution mechanism such as pre-litigation conciliation to resolve the grievances of pensioners at pre-litigation stage itself.</p>	3.16 3.17	<p>DoPPW will consult Department of Legislative Affairs and inform the Parliamentary Standing Committee.</p>
4.13	<p>Assistance to Family Pensioners for claiming Family Pension: The Committee recommends the Department to instruct the Ministries/Departments of the Central Government to be proactive, reach out to the family pensioners and also assist them in claiming family pension.</p> <p>Need for simplification of Procedure for Disability Certificate: The Committee notes that the procedure of obtaining medical certificate/disability certificate by children of a deceased Government Servant is Kafkaesque and needs to be simplified.</p>	3.23 3.24	<p>DoPPW will instruct the Ministries/Departments of the Central Government to be proactive, reach out to the family pensioners and also assist them in claiming family pension. Further observation by the committee Family pensioners have to face many hurdles to get their pension on time. On one hand they have to grapple with the loss of the breadwinner and on other hand they struggle to procure all the documents to get their pension started. Accordingly, the Departments/Organizations should be sensitive and forthcoming in dealing with family pension cases.</p>

RAILWAY BOARD & DOP&PW ORDERS

Copy of Railway Board's OM No. PC-V/2016/A/Med/1(FMA)(E) Dated 27-10-2022 (RBE No. 137/2022) to all General Managers & Others.

Sub: Grant of Fixed Medical Allowance to Railway pensioners/family pensioners-change in option.

In terms of Railway Board's letter No. PC-V/98/I/7/I/I dated 15-7-2002 (RBE No. 107/2002), the Railway pensioners/family pensioners eligible to opt for FMA had been provided, once in a life time, an opportunity to change their option to avail the benefit of FMA or otherwise on furnishing proof of change in residence. The issue of allowing this one-time opportunity to change option for FMA/OPD facility had been under consideration with DoP&PW for quite some time. It has now been decided that the Railway pensioners/family pensioners residing beyond 2.5 kms from Railway Hospital/Health Unit and eligible for RELHS shall be allowed opportunity to avail change in option, once in a time, from FMA to OPD or vice versa without linkage to change in residence.

This issues with the concurrence of Finance Directorate of Ministry of Railways.

3. This will come into effect from the date of issue of this letter.

Copy of Railway Board's Letter No. 2022/G-1/20/85/3052843/22 Dated 12-10-2022 & No. 2022/TG-1/20/85 Dated 12-10-2022 to all GMs Zonal Railways & CRIS

Sub: Reservation on Railway Passes/PTOs

Ref: Letter No. 94/TG-V20/P/14 dated 28.08.2009 (CC No. 39 of 2009)

Instructions were issued vide letter referred to above, stipulating detailed guidelines on booking of tickets on railway Passes. Consequent to introduction of facility for online booking of reserved tickets on railway Passes/PTOs issued through HRMS and also on receipt of requests for revising the guidelines for ticket booking on PTOs, the matter has been reviewed and it has been decided that the procedure to be followed for booking reserved tickets on the authority of Railway Pass [PTO will be as under:

- i. Pass/PTO holders or their representatives should present their passes/PTO along with the requisitions duly filled in to the Reservation Clerk who will issue ticket on realization of due fare, if any, and make endorsement on the face of the pass/PTO indicating the PNR number, the train number, date of journey, status of tickets, etc.
- ii. The option to book reserved tickets online on the authority of Railway Pass/PTOs can also be availed for that category of pass/PTOs for which the same has been provided by CRIS/IRCTC.
- iii. Holders of Privilege, Duty, Post Retirement, Complimentary, Metal and other passes/PTOs may be allowed to seek fresh reservation only if the earlier reservation is cancelled before preparation of first reservation charts. The ticket booked across the computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counter can also be cancelled through website of IRCTC within the stipulated time period prescribed in the Refund Rules. In such cases, it will not be mandatory to surrender the ticket across the PRS counter, if no refund is due. However, in case of due refund amount involved on tickets booked on pass/PTOs, surrender of original ticket across the reservation counter within the prescribed time limit shall be mandatory.
- iv. In case of confirmed reservation on privilege, Post retirement, complementary and other passes/PTOs, the pass/PTO holder can make maximum three-time reservations provided the earlier one has been cancelled before preparation of first reservation charts, failing which the the pass/PTO will be treated as used.
- v. There will be no restriction in number of cancellations in case of Duty Pass, Metal Pass and in case of tickets having a status of fully/partially waiting list (at the time of cancellation) against Privilege, Post Retirement and Complimentary passes/PTOs. However, fresh reservation will be given only after the earlier one has been cancelled within the normal prescribed time limits, which at present for waitlist/RAC/partially confirmed tickets is 30 minutes before scheduled departure of train.
- vi. Telephonic requests for reservation and cancellation will not be entertained
- vii. The portion of break journey will be treated as separate journey i.e., instructions contained at para (iii) and (iv) will be applicable for each leg of journey separately.
- viii. It will be the responsibility of officer/staff making reservation on Metal/Duty Passes to ensure that between the same stations and on the same date, reservation should not be made in two separate trains.
- ix. The facility of modification of ticket booked on PTOs will not be available.
- x. In case of PTOs, cancellation/clerk age charge as applicable shall be levied on each time of cancellation as per existing principles on cancellation of tickets booked on PTOs. However, after enabling this option no modification option shall be allowed on PTOs issued across HRMS.

2. CRIS will make necessary modifications in the software as required.

Sub: - Change in scheme under FMA Copy of S.Rly Letter No. P(W)/UMID/FMA Option dated 30.11.2022)

Ref: - RBE=137/2022(PBC-216/2022 and PBC-239/2022)

In view of the above Board's letter and PBC's, it has been decided to provide an onetime option to pensioners and family pensioners for change of option for FMA or OPD without linkage to change of residence.

Similar option was also made available earlier, at that time without the sanction of the Railways, FMA had been allowed automatically by Banks, this has resulted in some problem in issuance of the UMID card to the employee regarding eligibility for OPD.

Hence, to avoid such situation the following guidelines are issued for information and compliance.

1. Option forms as circulated vide PBC No. 239/2022 dated 10.11.2022 should be submitted by the pensioner of family pensioner to the Personnel Branch of the Division/Workshop/Unit concerned.
2. On submission of the same sanction of Competent Authority shall be obtained a sanction memorandum has to be issued.
3. On the basis of the sanction memorandum, only FMA or OPD can be claimed.
4. This should be ensured by the Account Department by issuing Letter of Authority to the banks concerned in every individual case duly endorsing a copy to Personnel Branch (UL-3).
5. No banks should be allowed to disburse FMA directly on their own, since change of option as have effect on the UMID cards issued.
6. The copy of the sanction memorandum issued be enclosed to the dealer or inspector who deals with the UMID card should make necessary changes to issue revised UMID card (UL-3). Based on that, the dealing clerk or the inspector who deals with UMID card should make necessary changes to issue revised UMID card stating that the pensioner is eligible for FMA or otherwise as per the revised option.

Copy of Railway Board's OM No. PC-V/2016/A/Med/1(FMA)(E) Dated 27-10-2022 (RBE No.

137/2022) to all General Managers & Others.

Sub: Grant of Fixed Medical Allowance to Railway pensioners/family pensioners change in option.

In terms of Railway Board's letter No. PC-V/98/1/7/1/1 dated 15-7-2002 (RBE No 107/2002), the Railway pensioners/family pensioners eligible to opt for FMA had been provided, once in a life time, an opportunity to change their option to avail the benefit of FMA or otherwise on furnishing proof of change in residence. The issue of allowing this one-time opportunity to change option for FMA/OPD facility had been under consideration with DoP&PW for quite some time. It has now been decided that the Railway pensioners/family pensioners residing beyond 2.5 kms from Railway Hospital/I-leath Unit and eligible for RELHS shall be allowed opportunity to avail change in option, once in a time, from FMA to OPD or vice versa without linkage to change in residence.

4. This issues with the concurrence of Finance Directorate of Ministry of Railways. This will come into effect from the date of issue of this letter.

Copy of OM No. 42/15/2022-P&PW(D)/5 Dated: 25-10-2022 of Government of India, Ministry of Personnel, P.G. & Pensions, Department of Pension & Pensioner's Welfare, 3rd Floor, LokNayakBhawan, New Delhi-3

Sub: - Clarification regarding whether deductions towards commutation are required to be made from family pension for the remaining period in cases where the pensioner dies before the restoration of commuted-reg

In accordance with Rule 5 of CCS (Commutation of Pension) Rules, 1981, a Government servant can commute for a lump-sum payment of an amount not exceeding 40 per cent of this pension. Further, in accordance with Rule 10-A of CCS (Commutation of Pension) Rules, 1981 the commuted amount of the pension shall be restored on completion of fifteen years from the date of reduction of pension on account of commutation becomes operative in accordance with date of reduction of pension on account of commutation becomes operative in accordance with Rule 6.

2. References/representation have been received in this Department seeking clarification whether deduction towards commutation is required to be made from family pension for the remaining period in cases where the pensioner dies before the restoration of commuted pension.

3. It is clarified that in such cases monthly commuted amount of pension is not required to be deducted from family pension shall be paid in full without any deduction in this regard.

MEMORANDUMS SUBMITTED BY RSCWS

Copy of Memorandum No.RSCWS/CHD/Memo DG(RHS)/2022-28 Dated: 27-12-2022

To the Director General (RHS), Railway Board, Rail Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001

Sub: - Entitlement of Hospital Wards for Railway beneficiaries in Railway empanelled Hospitals as per 7th CPC pay scales.

Ref: - 1. Your office letter No. 2016/H-1/11/69/Hospital Recognition dated 08.02.2018.

2. Govt. of India Ministry of Health & Family welfare Department (EHS Section letter No.S.11011/11/2016-CGHS(P)EHS dated 28.10.2022.

3. Govt. of India Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Department (EHS Section) letter No. S.11011/11/2016-CGHS(P) dated 22.11.2022.

Vide above referred letters at Sl.No. 2 & 3 issued by Govt. of India, MoH&FW has revised the entitlement of hospital wards to CGHS beneficiaries as under: -

Sl.No.	Corresponding Basic Pay drawn by Officer in 7 th CPC per month	Ward Entitlement
1	Up to Rs. 36,500	General
2	Rs. 36,501 to Rs.50,500	Semi-Private
3	Above Rs. 50,500	Private

In view of the above it is requested that the entitlement of Railway beneficiaries issued vide above referred letter at Sl. No. 1 may please be revised in view of the pay scales as per 7th CPC.

2. It is, therefore, requested that the comprehensive orders may please be issued for the Serving employees/Officers, Pensioners & Family Pensioners indicating the Corresponding Basic Pay, Pension & Family Pension as per 7th CPC:

Sl.No.	Corresponding Basic Pay drawn by Officer in 7 th CPC per month	Corresponding Basic Pension drawn by Pensioner in 7 th CPC per month	Corresponding Basic Family Pension drawn by Family Pensioner in 7 th CPC per month	Ward Entitlement
1	Up to Rs. 36,500	Up to Rs.18,250	Up to Rs.10,950	General
2	Rs. 36,501 to Rs.50,500	Rs.18,251 to Rs.25,250	Rs.10,951 to Rs.15,150	Semi-Private
3	Above Rs. 50,500	Above 25,250	Above Rs.15,150	Private

Copy of Memorandum No. RSCWS/HO/CHD/Memo MOS P&PW/2022-25 Dated: 12-12-2022 to Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State, Government of India, Deptts. Of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pension, North Block, New Delhi – 110001. Email: mos-pp@nic.in

Sub: Restoration of Commuted Portion of Pension to Central Government Pensioners after 12 years of Commutation instead of 15 years as at present.

- 1) We draw kind attention of the Government and seek your benign intervention towards the injustice being done to the Central Government Pensioners in respect of Restoration of Commuted portion of Pension, being done after 15 years of the Commutation.
2. The 5th CPC, in para 136.10 recommended that the commutation value in respect of employees superannuating at the age of 60 years and commuting a portion of pension within a period of one year, would be equal to 9.81 years' (purchase). After adding thereto, a further period of two years for recovery of interest, it would be reasonable to restore the commuted portion of the pension after 12 years, instead of 15 years as at present.
3. These recommendations of the 5th Pay Commission were not implemented by the Government even though the rates of Interest have been drastically reduced over the years
4. **Life Expectancy:** Average life expectancy between the period 2002-06 and 2013-17 increased by 5.7 years.

Year	Life Expectancy	Year	Life Expectancy
2002-06	64.7 years	2009-13	67.5 years
2003-07	65.0 years	2010-14	67.9 years
2004-08	65.4 years	2011-15	68.3 years
2005-09	65.7 years	2012-16	68.7 years
2006-10	67.7 years	2013-17	70.4 years
2007-11	66.5 years	2014-18	69.4 years
2008-12	67.0 years		

2. The interest on commuted value of pension is recoverable in 2.66 years. Take an Example, of a 60 years retiree; Age Next birthday is 61 years, then the commutation value is 8.194. Thus, total recovery period of the commuted amount is = 8.194 + 2.66 = 10.85 years. Even after full recovery, the pensioner keeps on paying for 15 – 10.85 = 4.15 years. Thus, excess recovery is taking place for 4.15 years. This is very unfair as the recovery of the commuted value of Pension is Completed in 10.85 years.
3. It is, therefore, requested that considering the sweeping changes in the interest rates, and increase in life expectancy, Commuted Portion of Pension may please be restored to the Pensioners after 12 years of Commutation thereof.



LET US CONTINUE TO STRIVE FOR THE WELFARE OF THE PENSIONERS

By Harchandan Singh, Secretary General, RSCWS.

On the threshold of 2023, we wish a very Happy, Healthy & prosperous New Year to all the Members of RSCWS as well as to all other Pensioners and readers of our journal.

For the Pensioners, 2022 has been a year of successful struggle & hope. The 110th Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Pensioners Grievances, brought some rays of positivity or the Pensioners through its Recommendations for relief on various areas – including Additional Pension from the age of 65, 70 & 75 years @ 5%, 10% & 15% respectively, higher Fixed Medical Allowance and much more. But the 120th Report of the said Committee, presented to

Parliament in December 2022, rejected many of the recommendations of the 110th Report of the PSC. RSCWS will continue to pursue with the Government for early implementation of all the favourable recommendations of the 110th Report of PSC.

Let us all continue to strive to achieve our objectives for the welfare of Pensioners & redressal of their grievances

PRS: October-December 2022

BOOK POST

If undelivered, please return to:
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 32, Phase 6, Mohali (Chandigarh)-160055.
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