



DEDICATED TO
THE CAUSE OF
PENSIONERS
SINCE 1991

PENSIONERS' RAIL SAMPARK

QUARTERLY BULLETIN OF

RAILWAY SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE SOCIETY (RSCWS)

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

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FOR FREE CIRCULATION TO MEMBERS RSCWS

RAILWAYS ISSUES INSTRUCTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF UMID (UNIQUE MEDICAL IDENTITY CARD) SCHEME FOR PENSIONERS

Railways have issued Instructions for Implementation of UMID (UNIQUE MEDICAL IDENTITY CARD) Scheme for Pensioners. All Pensioners have been advised to Register & Apply for the UMID Smart Card online as per Steps enlisted in these instructions which also include the List the of all the documents which are required to be uploaded or referred to while applying for the UMID and which need to be collected and kept in readiness before starting to apply for the same online. A list of Dependent relatives has also been given therein along with documents to be uploaded.

Scanned JPG copies of the required documents need to be kept in readiness for uploading before initiating the Application after Registration on the UMID Portal <https://umid.digitalir.in> with 14 Digit 7th CPC PPO. Pensioners have been advised to check all their Particulars in their 7th CPC PPO as uploaded on "Arpan" Portal dedicated to update the 7th CPC PPO which is linked to UMID Portal. If they find anything wrong with the PPO on Arpan or in the data in the UMID Application, they should correct it (where admissible) or get it corrected through the Personnel Department.

(RAILWAY PENSIONERS ARE ADVISED TO CAREFULLY READ THE INSTRUCTIONS REG. UMID ON PAGE 2, 3 & 4)

RSCWS URGES CRB TO ASK RAILWAYS TO NOMINATE AGENCY TO HELP PENSIONERS TO APPLY FOR UMID

RSCWS has urged upon the CRB to help the old aged Pensioners & Family Pensioners most of whom have not been able to Register and Apply for their UMID Cards due to either non-issue of 7th CPC PPOs OR errors & omissions in the PPOs, non-uploading of 7th CPC PPOs or omission & errors in the PPOs placed on Arpan besides some practical problems due to lack of computer literacy among many of the Pensioners and Family Pensioners. RSCWS has sought for Resolving of these problems and appointment of an agency by all Railways to help Pensioners & Family Pensioners to apply for UMID and to get their Unique Medical Identity Card early.

(Please see copy of Memorandum to CRB on Page 5)

LIFE CERTIFICATE FOR PENSIONERS ABOVE 80 YEARS CAN NOW BE SUBMITTED FROM OCT 1 RSCWS TEAMS TO VISIT ELDERLY MEMBERS TO RECORD DIGITAL LIFE CERTIFICATE

Annual Digital Life Certificate (DLC) for Pensioners above 80 years can now be recorded from Oct. 1 to Nov. 30 as per orders recently issued by DOP&PW to save them from rush in the Banks. Others below 80 shall have to submit it in November. RSCWS teams will visit the elderly Members to record their DLC with the Biometric Instrument provided by the DOP&PW, to save them from going to Banks for giving Life Certificate.

REPRESENTATIVES OF RSCWS SHALL VISIT MEMBERS FOR RECORDING THE DLC (DIGITAL LIFE CERTIFICATE WITH THE INSTRUMENT PROVIDED BY DOP&PW, TO SAVE THEM FROM GOING TO THE BANK

RSCWS DLC TEAM: SATISH SHARMA, R. K. DATTA. KNSVIRK. ANOOP KUMAR & JASPAL SINGH

(PLEASE SEE FURTHER DETAILS AT THE END OF PAGE 10 INSIDE RE. INFORMATION & DOCS REQUIRED FOR DLC)

**MEMBERS RSCWS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND WITH SPOUSE & OTHER RAILWAY PENSIONERS
GENERAL BODY MEETING & MEDICAL SEMINAR FOLLOWED BY LUNCH
ON 16TH NOVEMBER, 2019 FROM 10-30 AM AT GOVT. MUSEUM AUDITORIUM, SECTOR 10, CHANDIGARH.**

MEDICAL SEMINAR SHALL BE HELD BY DR. H. S. BEDI DIRECTOR IVY HOSPITAL, MOHALI

ON CARDIO VASCULAR PROBLEMS & HEALTHY LIFESTYLE IN OLD AGE

DLC (DIGITAL LIFE CERTIFICATE) OF LEFT OUT MEMBERS SHALL BE RECORDED FROM 10 AM ONWARDS OUTSIDE THE HALL.

MEMBERS DESIROUS TO GET THEIR DLC RECORDED

MAY PLEASE BRING THE INFORMATION & DOCUMENTS REQD. FOR DLC AS GIVEN AT THE END OF PAGE 10.

PRESIDENT & SECRETARY GENERAL, RSCWS

INSTRUCTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF UMID (UNIQUE MEDICAL IDENTITY CARD) SCHEME FOR PENSIONERS

(Issued vide Northern Railway Ambala Division Letter No. 720/03/Sett/UMB/19 Date: 30.09.2019)

Sub:- Implementation of UMID (Unique Medical Identity Card) Scheme for Pensioners.

CRB has launched UMID a web and mobile based application to generate Medical identity Cards for employees, pensioners as a part of digital initiatives over Indian Railway. This initiative aims to simplify access to health care service, eliminating the need for railway staff to carry the physical card/health book. With identification of the beneficiary done through computer data base, the unique medical card will enable access to medical facilities in any of the medical units across India. Railway Board has emphasized immediate implementation of UMID scheme over all Zonal railways.

To facilitate this, a detailed exercise has to be carried out duly involving various departments and active participation of all pensioners. To begin with, the employees have to first register themselves at UMID portal, which is accessible in Mozilla Firefox and some selected web browsers.

1. STEPS TO REGISTER IN UMID PORTAL:

- ❖ Open your web browser and type <https://umid.digitalir.in>
- ❖ In the homepage, click REGISTER HERE.
- ❖ Chose the type of User (Employee/Pensioner)
- ❖ Enter the required detail i.e. 14 digit new PPO No. , Pension type, Pension Scheme, (i.e. RELHS with FMA, RELHS without FMA, RELHS not opted), D.O.B. and validate the detail.
Then enter the mobile no. and click on SEND OTP
- ❖ Enter the OTP received on your mobile and set a password for yourUMID account. This password shall have minimum of 8 digits, 1 Special character and 1 digit. Re-enter the password and click on validate.
- ❖ Your user account will be created successfully and you will be re-directed to the UMID homepage.

All pensioners are requested to register themselves in the above manner.

Once, you have registered successfully as a user, the next step is to initiate application in the UMID portal. This is nothing but feeding the bio-data and other details/supporting documents in the UMID portal. To facilitate this, proper documents are required to be kept in readiness by all pensioners. Below is the brief procedure for initiation of application for reference:

2. STEPS TO INITIATE APPLICATION:

- ❖ Open your web browser and type <https://umid.digitalir.in>
- ❖ In the Web page, click on Login (Option no. 2) Enter your PPO Number and password.
- ❖ Once, you log-in, click on UMID Employee in the Master Dash Board. This will automatically be UMID Pensioner for pensioner login.
- ❖ Now all the pensioner detail as fetched from your ARPAN&IPAS database will appear on the screen. Please go through the details and in case of any correction, contact your respective Settlement Clerk in Personnel department.
- ❖ If all the details are correct, on the left side in option, click on INITIATE APPLICATION (Option No. 2 in Master Dash Board)
- ❖ As a ready reckoner, the following is the check list for mandatory fields and documents to be scanned in JPEG document format for advanced preparedness to initiate the application;
- ❖ Passport size photograph of employee & all the dependents.
- ❖ Signature of Pensioner.
- ❖ Old Medical ID card of pensioner or RELHS documents issued at the time of cessation railway service.
- ❖ ID proof of all individual dependents.
- ❖ Father's death certificate in case of Widow Mother.

- ❖ Bonafide Student's certificate in case of son over 21 years.
 - (i) Sons under 21 years of age provided they are wholly dependent on the Railway employee;
 - (ii) Sons over 21 years of age without an upper age limit, even if not a student or invalid, provided he is wholly dependent on and resides with the Railway employee;
- ❖ Divorce decree in case of divorced daughter.(Should be wholly dependent on Rly. employee).
- ❖ Marriage certificate & Death certificate in case of Widow daughter, if any. (Should be wholly dependent on Rly. employee)
- ❖ Father's death certificate and bonafide student's certificate for Brother above 21 years.
- ❖ Father's death certificate in case of Un-married Sister. (Should be wholly dependent on Rly. employee)
- ❖ Father's death certificate and divorce decree, in case of Divorced Sister. (Should be wholly dependent on Rly. employee).
- ❖ Father's death certificate, Marriage certificate and Death certificate in case of Widow Sister. (Should be wholly dependent on Rly. employee)
- ❖ When you click proceed button you will be directed to update your current pension particulars. If given details are correct then skip and then, you will be re-directed to PENSIONER, APPLICATION FORM where you have to feed 09 fields (mandatory) only, they are department, design, station, blood group, Aadhar No., PAN No., Address, Hospital opted/medical treatment at and email.
- ❖ Before further proceeding you will have to give declaration regarding dependant member. If pensioner is single then click declaration button. If pensioner has family then don't click declaration button.
- ❖ By clicking on PROCEED button, the details will be saved and PENSIONER can proceed to UPLOAD DOCUMENTS.
- ❖ Once these details are validate, you will have to upload the necessary scanned documents (Including scanned Signature) in respective buttons.
- ❖ Once you upload the documents, you can view and confirm the page to proceed further.
- ❖ Once, this procedure for initiation of application is completed, pull back feather may be used in case any changes need to be introduced by pensioner in the, application usually 24 hours would be provided to make any changes.
- ❖ UMID ID cards will be generated for pensioner and each of the family members separately. The final stage is to print the Medical ID card which will be done at Personnel department.

If pensioners are facing any difficulties, for registration or uploading the documents, please see USER MANUAL (GUIDELINES) at www.digitalir.in/umid.

Therefore, all the pensioners are advised to complete this procedure to enable the Personnel department to proceed further. In case of any assistance employee shall contact their concerned Welfare Inspector office immediately.

PENSION SEWA KENDRA, NORTHERN RAILWAY AT BARODA HOUSE, NEW DELHI

Pension Sewa Kendra is operative in the Accounts Building, Baroda House, New Delhi, where all the Northern Railway pensioners can approach to lodge their pension related queries or complaints.

9717637114 is the WhatsApp no. of Pension Sewa Kendra to facilitate all pensioners of NR for their smooth approach. Please spread this [no. to](#) Pensioners of NR to resolve pensioners' grievances at the earliest.

SR. CITIZENS CELL AT NORTHERN RAILWAY CENTRAL HOSPITAL, NEW DELHI,

A dedicated cell for senior citizen beneficiaries is operated from Room no.39 in Northern Railway Central Hospital from where coordination of all health services required by senior citizens is done.

Location: The Senior Citizen Cell is strategically situated on ground floor of the hospital building adjacent to the new OPD complex which makes specialists' consultation very convenient.

UMID (UNIQUE MEDICAL IDENTITY CARD)

To replace RELHS & Railway Medical Card for Railway Employees / Pensioner & Family Members

STEPS FOR FILING UMID APPLICATION ON-LINE

(A compilation by Shri NP Mohan, Chairman, RSCWS)

➤ LOGIN to the UMID site – <https://umid.digitalir.in>.

1. **REGISTER:** First step is to Register on UMID Portal.

- i. Select option "Register" - under 'Login' pull down menu.
- ii. Select 'Pensioner option' on the screen. Enter the basic details like 7th CPC PPO No (14 digits), Pensioner type, Pension scheme, Date of cessation (Superannuation/VRS date etc) and DOB.
- iii. Validate details. Now the Pensioner's name will be displayed. Enter mob no. click 'Send OTP'.
- iv. Enter the OTP sent by the system and password (to be decided by you - of minimum 6 characters). Reconfirm the password and press "Register". With this the registration process is complete. Pensioner can now log-in with PPO no as User ID and PW as already set in.
- v. The next step is to initiate application process which can be done any time by logging in.

2: **UPLOAD DOCUMENTS - BEFORE INITIATING APPLICATION**

- a) Pensioner's photo with all Dependents.
- b) Signature of Pensioner
- c) RELHS or old Medical card
- d) ID proof of all individual Dependents
- e) Last Pension Slip

IMPORTANT- ALL THE ABOVE SCANNED DOCUMENTS HAVE TO BE IN 'JPG' OR 'JPEG' FORMAT AND NOT MORE THAN 2 MB.

3. **SUBMIT APPLICATION**

- i. After logging in with PPO no and PW, click on the UMID (Pensioner) tab on the Dashboard. On the LH side, the Side-bar menu will show four items.
- ii. Click on 'INITIATE APPLICATION'.

Application form will have two stages for SELF/Pensioner & Family).

A. **SELF/PENSIONER FORM** - This form requires input of fields like;

- i) Department, ii) Designation, iii) Station, iv) Blood Group,
- v) Aadhaar No., vi) PAN, vii) Address, viii) Hospital / HU Opted and ix) Email ID.

Now proceed to upload documents as directed. Click on 'UPDATE DOUMENTS' to confirm uploading of documents. With this PENSIONER FORM is completed.

B. **ADD FAMILY MEMBERS**

- 1) If you click on ADD FAMILY MEMBER below the PENSIONER tab, new form for family member will be displayed
- 2) On top of the Form, check the box to fetch the Communication details, same as in PENSIONER Form.
- 3) Family Form will have 14 fields to be filled up. They are Name, Date of Birth, Relation, Marital Status, Dependency, Disability status, Blood Group, Address, Hospital opted, Aadhar, PAN, email and Mobile number. After entering the details, the PENSIONER can VALIDATE to save the particulars.
- 4) Uploading the indicated documents is compulsory. Commonly applicable documents are Photograph, ID proof, proof of Relation etc. update documents and then Submit.
- 5) After the Application process is complete, it has to pass through 3 stages and its status can be checked by logging.
- 6) Verification may take a few days after which the soft copy of UMID may be downloaded & got printed. UMID Smart Card will be released later on by the Personnel Department.

NP MOHAN (1st September, 2019)

MEMORANDUM TO CRB REG. PROBLEMS OF PENSIONERS IN APPLYING FOR UMID

Copy of DO letter No. RSCWS/HO/CHD/Memo RB/2019-20 Dated: 30-9-2019

Sub: Unique Medical Identity- Problems faced by Pensioners & Family Pensioners in Applying for UMID.

Reference: Our Memorandum No. RSCWS/HO/CHD/Memo RB/2019-11 Dated: 18th June, 2019

1. In continuation of our Memorandum cited above, we again thank you & the Railways in initiating UMID (Unique Medical Identity) Smart Card. We also thank you for getting some of the problems resolved therein as brought out by us in our Memorandum cited above.

2. We seek your benign intervention to redress some of the left-out problems and to please help the old aged Pensioners & Family Pensioners who have not been able to Register and Apply for their UMID Cards especially due to the following reasons:

- 1.1 Non- issue of 7th CPC PPOs for many of the Pensioners/Family Pensioners.
- 1.2 Errors & omissions in many of the 7th CPC PPOs.
- 1.3 Non-uploading of Revised PPOs on ARPAN with which UMID is linked.
- 1.4 Errors & omissions in uploaded PPOs on ARPAN and variation in Arpan& official PPOs.
- 1.5 System errors in UMID reg. entitlement of Hospital Wards for Pensioners & Family Pensioners.
- 1.6 Delay in verification of UMID by PSA Offices.

1.7 Non-deputing of any agency by the Railways to help the Pensioners & Family Pensioners for submission of Application for UMID as most of them do not know how to apply online and do not have access to the Computers or are not Computer savvy.

2. It is, therefore, requested as under:

- 2.1 Left out PPOs may please be got issued early.
- 2.2 All Revised PPOs may please be got uploaded on Arpan after removing the deficiencies;
- 2.3 UMID Portal may please be advised to remove the deficiencies and to update the entitlement of Hospital Wards of Pre-2016 Pensioners & family pensioners at 50% and 30 % respectively of their Notional Pay in 7thCPC and linking up the same to Board's orders regarding entitlement for serving employees issued vide Railway Board's letter No. 2016/H-1/11/69/Hospital Recognition Dated 08.05.2018.

2.4 An Agency may please be appointed to help the Pensioners & Family Pensioners at the respective stations to Register & Apply for UMID and to get their UMID Smart Card issued early in case of Pensioners as many of them are not computer savvy or do not have access to the Computer.

3. MACP IS ELIGIBLE FROM 1.1.2006 ON COMPLETION OF 10/20/30 YEARS REITERATES DELHI HIGH COURT IN ITS RECENT JUDGMENT DATED 13.9.2019

The Delhi HC has re-iterated its earlier judgment dated 1.5.2019 passed in Sunil Kumar Tyagi, BSFVs Union of India (WP No. 3549/2018) in its recent judgment dated 13.09.2019 in PrahladsVsUOI + 59 connected cases, filed by 60 pensioners of BSF. The present judgment in PrahladsVsUOI(WP No. 8203/2019 + 59 other Writ petitions) has rejected the contention of the DoPT and the BSF department that MACP is available only from 1.9.2008. The Hon'ble Court, in its judgement dated 13.9.2019 had categorically states that "After the decision of the Supreme Court in Balbir Singh Turn, the distinction sought to be drawn by the Respondents (UOI) between civilian and defence personnel in the matter of grant of the MACP benefit from 1st January 2006 is untenable. Again, the mere fact that there may be other service conditions that are applied from a prospective date is not an answer to not implementing the benefit of the above decision in the matter of MACP to all CAPFs uniformly The dismissal of SLP in SC in Tyagi's case is also reflected in para 19 of the present judgment.

RAIL PENSIONERS! BE ACTIVE MEMBERS OF RSCWS!

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RS.300/- PA OR LIFE MEMBERSHIP RS.2500/-
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP (ONLY FOR THOSE RESIDING OUTSIDE CHANDIGARH, PANCHKULA& MOHALI)
RS.100/- PA OR ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP RS.1250/-
(INCLUDING THAT FOR "PENSIONERS RAIL SAMPARK" – QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF RSCWS)
DONATIONS FOR SOCIAL WELFARE FUND& SUBSCRIPTIONS
MAY BE PAID TO TREASURER RSCWS IN CASH OR SENT BY AT-PAR CHEQUE OR DD
IN FAVOUR OF "RAILWAY SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE SOCIETY" – AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:
SH. JASPAL SINGH, TREASURER, RSCWS,
FLAT NO. 1020/1, FF, SECTOR45-B, CHANDIGARH-160047 (PH.09876092040)

- PRESIDENT & SECRETARY GENERAL, RSCWS

**MEMORANDUM TO MOS PGP REG. BENEFIT OF UPGRADING OF POSTS
FOR REVISION OF MINIMUM PENSION AS PER COURT JUDGEMENTS,**

Copy of RSCWS Memo No. RSCWS/HO/CHD/MOS PGP/2019-15 Dated: 16-8-2019

Sub: Revised (Minimum) Pension of Pre-2006 as per scale of pay of the post from which the incumbent retired – Appeal against denial of benefit of upgrading of Posts.

Ref: i) DOP&PW OM No.38/37/08-P&PW(A) dated 1.9.2008 & 11-2-2009

ii) Our Memorandum No. RSCWS/HO/CHD/MOS PGP/2019-7 Dated: 31-1-2019

1. We would like to draw your kind attention to the injustice being done to a section of Central Government Pensioners regarding denial of benefit of upgrading of posts, for fixation of Revised Minimum Pension of Pre-2006 Pensioners as per scale of pay of the post at which the incumbent retired. We earnestly request you for justice in this regard and for application of judgements of various Courts for Revision of Pension of similarly placed Pre-2006 Pensioners.

2. Revision of Pension of all Pre-2006 Pensioners was based on the Resolution of Union Cabinet and orders thereon were issued vide DOP&PW OM No.38/37/08-P&PW(A) dated 1.9.2008. This was unilaterally changed by an executive order vide Para 5 of DOPPW OM dated 11-2-2009 unjustly denying the benefit of upgrading of Posts to pre-2006 Pensioners even though no such condition was provided for in the Resolution of the Union Cabinet dated 29th August, 2008.

3. Benefit of up-grading of Posts was allowed to those in service with effect from 01-01-2006 and to those who retired after 01-01-2006. But this was unjustly denied to the pre-2006 pensioners vide Para 5 of DOPPW OM dated 11-2-2009 which did not have the approval of the Cabinet.

4. This, created discrimination between the Pre & Post-2006 Pensioners - in violation of settled law by the Apex Court in D. K. Nakara's case (1983 AIR 130, 1983 SCR (2) 165) as well as in Major Genl. SPS Vains Case vide SLP (Civil) No. 12357 of 2006.

5. Para 5 of DOPPW OM No.38/37/08-P&PW(A) dated 11-2-2009 had been quashed by the High Court of New Delhi in WP(C) 3035/2016 dated 3-8-2016 in Ram Phal-vs-Union of India & Ors and CAT Bangalore in CP 237/2015 in OA 231/2013 (Parthasarthy-Vs-Union of India).

6. Benefit of some of the judgements on this issue was confined to a few of the Petitioners only thus depriving other similarly placed pensioners thereby creating another class between a homogenous class of Pensioners in violation of Article 14 of the Constitution.

7. High Court of Kerala in its judgment dated 16-12-2016 in WPC No. 34171/2016, WPC No. 22153/2016 and WPC No. 21477/2016 had held that "the computation of pension in the matter of implementation of the 6th pay commission report has to be at 50% of the pay scale with respect to the scale of pay applicable to the post in question and not to the corresponding scale of pay to the one at which the incumbent has retired.

8. a) As per settled law, when any issue has been decided in principle in a case by a Tribunal or a High Court and upheld by the Supreme Court, that decision becomes final and absolute and GOI is bound to implement that decision, not only for the petitioners but to all similarly circumstanced employees/pensioners.

b) Courts have repeatedly held that the GOI should not force all the similarly placed, especially old aged pensioners to become compulsive litigants for getting similar benefits, or even to file contempt petitions against the GOI.

9. a) Supreme Court in a recent decision in Civil Appeal No. 10857 / 2016 on July 11, 2019 Manipur Pensioners Association -Vs- State of Manipur, has held that all pensioners, irrespective of their date of retirement, shall be entitled to revision in pension at par with those pensioners who retired post 1996.

b) Apex Court in above case has held that " ----- The artificial division stares into face and is unrelated to any principle and whatever principle, if there be any, has absolutely no nexus to the objects sought to be achieved by liberalising the pension scheme.

"In fact this arbitrary division has not only no nexus to the liberalised pension scheme but it is counterproductive and runs counter to the whole gamut of pension scheme. The equal treatment guaranteed in Article 14 is wholly violated in as much as the pension rules being statutory in character, since the specified date, the rules accord differential and discriminatory treatment to equals in the matter of commutation of pension".

10. In view of the above cited 'In-Rep' decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court on a similar matter, it would not be justified for the Government to continue with the litigation on this issue in the SLP(C) No.16321 of 2018 UOI-Vs-Rajindra and those tagged with it or pending in any of the Courts.

11. It is, therefore, requested that in view of above submissions:

a) SLP(C) No.16321 of 2018 UOI-Vs-Rajindra & along with those clubbed with it may please be withdrawn in view of the judgement of Supreme Court in similar case delivered on 11th July, 2019 in SLP(C) No. 10857 / 2016.

b) DOP&PW OM No.38/37/08-P&PW(A) dated 11-2-2009 (Para 5) may please be withdrawn.

c) Revised Minimum Pension w.e.f. 1-1-2006 may please be granted at 50% of the pay in the 6th CPC Pay Band plus Grade Pay applicable to the Post from which the Pensioner had retired.

REPORT OF MEETING OF BPS WITH MEMBER STAFF RAILWAY BOARD

A delegation of Bhat Pensioner's Samaj (BPS), including Sh. S.C. Maheshwari Secretary General BPS, Sh R.S. Atroley former Chief Engineer Western Railway, Sh. R.K. Nanda, Editor 'Bharat Pensioner' & Sh. Rameshwar Kumar Treasurer BPS, had a meeting with Shri Manoj Pandey, Member Staff Railway Board on 13.09.2019. MS gave a patient hearing on each of the following points discussed in the meeting.

1. Medical facilities to RELHS beneficiaries to be at par with CGHS beneficiaries:

CGHS is the mother of RELHS Scheme as almost every provision in RELHS is based on CGHS e.g.

- (a) Contribution to join RELHS is in sync with MOHF (Rly Bd No.2017/H/28/1 dated: 23.10.2017. In fact, it is more than CGHS as additional money to the tune of Rs. 30000/- is charged for CTSE Smart Card for Cashless Treatment Scheme in Emergencies where as in CGHS no extra contribution is charged for similar PAN India Plastic smart card.
- (b) Private Hospital empanelment as per CGHS rates.
- (c) Ward entitlement corresponding to CGHS.
- (d) Diet Charges corresponding to CGHS etc.
- Following facilities are not at Par with CGHS and are not available to RELHS beneficiaries: i)
- i) Preferential treatment & personal attention of Doctors to super senior citizens.
- ii) For 75 yrs. and above beneficiaries, facility of specialist consultation and treatment at private empaneled hospital without referral
- iii) Facility of obtaining online appointment with doctors.
- iv) Facility of SMS alerts for online appointment and dispensation of medicines.
- v) Online registration to consult Medical officers at wellness centre to bring down the waiting period.
- vi) Free annual Health Check-up of 75 yrs and above at empaneled Hospitals. This discrimination in healthcare to homogenous group of C G Pensioners is violative of Articles 14 & 21 of the constitution of India.
- vii) No doubt Railway has its own Primary, secondary & tertiary system of health care. But for Sr citizens these systems are useful only to those residing within a reasonable distance from these facilities. For those 75yrs plus beneficiaries who are placed miles & miles away Private empaneled hospitals nearer to them are more convenient and within easy reach.

MS reaction was very positive, and we expect some positive result.

2. Non-implementation of Board's Orders by Zonal Railways:

A) Following provisions of RAILWAY BOARD's letter No.2016/H-I/II/69/Hospital recognition of 23.12.2016 have not yet been implemented even after passage of almost 3 yrs which is affecting transparency:

- i) Once a hospital is recognized/empaneled by any unit of Railway it will be empaneled for whole of Indian Railway. Every unit shall be uploading the list of hospitals on the web site maintained by M/S UTIITSL where anybody can peruse it.
- ii) The referral letters can also be generated by the authorized persons of Railway: Medical department through the website after following the due procedure as per extant rules.
- iii) The bill processing system has been streamlined by involving M/s UTIITSL as the bill processing agency (BPA) which will develop an online system of clearing the bills. This is affecting transparency.

B)

concerned Medical officers.

iv) CTSE was made PAN India vide Board letter No 2019/H/28/CTSE Scheme dated (1-11-2019 &) 28.1.2019 but still it is not available in several of cities.

3. Glitches & ground level problems related to UMID Smart card:

The project UMID launched in April 2019 by CRB for replacement of existing RELHS cards is an online project which is beyond reach of those who are not computer savvy. Divisions are not friendly enough to help pensioners. Even for those who are computer savvy initiation and submission of application and editing it, is tedious and time consuming as website is not user friendly & is annoyingly slow.

- i) Uploading of Photos & other documents for wife not possible as links for uploading do not appear.
- ii) It needs 14-digit PPO for registration which is still not available to over lac of RELHS beneficiaries.
- iii) Recently another compulsory document i.e. latest Pension slip has been added. Most of the banks are not issuing pension slips instead they send SMS only giving pension details.
- iv) Reading finger Biometrics in case of Sr Citizens will be a problem and, as such, provision of IRISH scanner is needed.
- v) Still there is no provision of Kiosks in hospitals to take out OPD slips using UMID smart card.
- vi) UMID website fetches pensioners data from ARPAN which is still not up to date with correct & complete data of all the pensioners.
- v) Aadhar card is a must to have UMID but in North East Lacs of Rly pensioners have not been provided with Aadhar Card.
- viii). Several Divisions are still not UMID enabled for registration.

ix) After rejection of application there is no provision for resubmission

x) 'Kaizala' is of no use unless Doctors are sensitized to join it and to respond to the beneficiaries.

MS assured that he is very much concerned and will do whatever possible for the success and improvement of CTSE & UMID.

4. Online facility for Issuing post retirement passes including online reservation on post retirement passes: BPS represented that:-

i) Septuagenarian and octogenarian Railway pensioners, due to old age vagaries, often need a companion to go to PRC pass issuing authority more than once which is in most of the cases are located at quite a distance from their residence. Applying for pass & getting it through Post is not only time consuming but is riddled with the risk of loss in transit which is not uncommon.

ii) Indian Railway has one of the best digital infrastructures in the country with highly intelligent IT personnel on its command. They can easily create a Portal to provide Pan India facility to register, receive online pass application and not only to deliver passes online on the pattern of E tickets but can also provide online reservation facility to the beneficiaries. This way not only the lives of elderly in their last days can be made a little more comfortable but will ensure that there is no misuse. It will save the staff from attending to visiting beneficiaries.

MS fully agreed and informed that he is in discussion with concerned officers at different levels.

5. Difficulties faced by family pensioners other than spouse: BPS represented that:-

Ministry of Personnel, PG & Pensions (DOP&PW) is the nodal ministry for pension matters. It is said that the administrative Ministry of Railways follow the circulars/ clarifications/ instruction/ Notifications issued by DOP&PW. However, inspite of clear circulars on eligibility, documents to be submitted for sanction of family pension, Unmarried/divorced and widowed dependent daughters face undue harassment at Divisional level for the sanction of family pension in their favour on their turn. Every Division interprets the circulars/instructions as per their own convenience. BPS has received many complains where the applicants in such cases are asked to submit beyond the orders of the Railway Board), the following documents (:

i) Income certificate & family members certificates from Revenue authorities,

ii) Declaration on indemnity bond with sureties of 2 serving employees with their supervisor signature.

iii) Some ask for solvency certificate from revenue authority.

iv) Quite often legal heir certificate from court is asked even after submission of all the relevant documents & proof.

v) File is returned again & again and every time with a new objection. This way these poor helpless ladies are harassed and exploited.

vi) They hardly find any rescue in pension Adalats too.

Therefore, all the instructions/circulars etc. need to be streamlined, consolidated and converted into rules with a timeline & provision of penalizing those who violate these rules.

MS listened patiently and took note of it.

6. Revision of Pension of pre- 2016 Railway Running staff Pensioners:

It is over 18 months this simple issue is under examination of Rly Board shuttling the file between DOP&PW, DOE & the Board. Notional pay PC to PC for pensioners is worked out assuming that the person has not retired, as such in their case too basic rule for fixation of pay PC to PC as is done for the Running Staff in service needs to be followed as has been done in the case of all others pre-2016 pensioners.

MS had certain misconceptions which were satisfactorily explained. He was requested to get the case decided early.

7. Benefit of Charge Allowance for Revision of Pension in 7th CPC:

According to Railway Board's letter No F(E) III/94/PNI/26dtd 23.06.1995 & PC IV/86/DA/1 dated : 04.03.1996 Charge Allowance should be reckoned as Pay for the purpose of pension, gratuity, DA/HR as defined in Rule 1303 (FR 9)(21)(a)(i)R-II(6th edition).

Whereas, according to Rly. Bd. letter No PC-VII/2017/II/7/5/8 dated 25.10.2018 admissibility of Charge allowance in 7th CPC pay structure and grant of benefits like DA, HR etc. is under examination of DOPT. We fail to understand/appreciate the need for examination by DOPT when in this regard Board's letter no. PCIV/86/DA/1 dated 4.3.1996- is very clear and conclusive. In the Sixth Pay Commission period, pensioners had the benefit of Charge Allowance in the Sixth Pay Commission report. When Charge Allowance is part of FR, we fail to see any justification in Rly. Bd. making a reference to DOPT and waiting for its decision. This has resulted in many pensioners, most of whom in their '80s, being deprived of their dues.

During discussion MS was informed that the recent orders issued vide RBE No 127/ 2019 dated 08.08.2019 regarding adoption of instructions issued by DOPT relating to restrictions of officiating pay under FR-35 (Rule 1329 IREC Vol II) in the context of RS(RP)Rules, 2016 in lieu of Charge Allowance, are effective from 01.01.2017 and that it is silent about those retired earlier. MS took note of it.

8. Pension Adalat: BPS requests that instead of permitting only SCOVA members/ their representatives to attend Pension Adalat. Scope should be widened to permit representatives of all Identified Associations of DOP&PW MS took note of it.

AMENDMENT IN ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR 50% ENHANCED FAMILY PENSION AFTER DEATH OF DECEASED EMPLOYEE IS NOW 7 YEARS INSTEAD OF 10 YEARS!

Central Government amends existing pension rules 54 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 If a Central Government employee died while in service, his family will be entitled for family pension at the rate of 50% of last drawn pay for the period of ten years. And thereafter the rate of family pension will be reduced to 30% of last pay drawn by the deceased employee. In case of an employee has rendered a service of less than 7 years before his death, the calculation of family pension will be 30% of last drawn pay only.

The central Government has now taken a decision with mercy on the family members of deceased employee, who dies within 7 years of joining service will also be eligible for family pension at enhanced rate of 50% of last drawn pay for the period of ten years.

The above great amendment would be effective from 1.10.2019 including the personnel of CAPFs.

And also the amendment in CCS Pension Rule 54 applicable for the families in critical condition, who died before completion of service of 7 years within ten years before 1.10.2019 will also be eligible for family pension at higher rate with effect from the same date (1.10.2019).

CAT ERNAKULAM REJECTS PLEA TO DENY REVISION OF FAMILY PENSION AS PER RULES ON GROUNDS OF MISSING RECORDS; DIRECTS RESPONDENTS TO REVISE FAMILY PENSION AS PER RULES AFTER EACH PAY COMMISSION W.E.F. 1-1-1986 ONWARDS WITH ARREARS AND INTEREST THEREON IN OA NO.180-0087302018 DATED 10-6-2019 SMT. V.SAROJINIAMMA-VS- UOI,

OA No.873/2018 was filed by Smt.V.SarojiniAmma, wife of late ShriN.SrikumaraKaimal, Amibikapuram, against the failure on the part of the respondents to consider the request of applicant to revise family pension received by her on the plea that the related records are not available. The prayer in the OA are as follows:

a. Declare that the applicant is entitled and eligible for the refixation and revision of family pension in accordance with Rule 54 of Central Civil (Pension) rules, relevant extant guidelines, circulars and office memorandum relevant extant rules, guidelines, pension revision orders, office memorandums applicable in her case with effect from 1986.

b. Direct the 7th respondent to refix/revise the family pension of the applicant in accordance with Rule 54 of Central Civil (Pension) Rules, relevant extant guidelines, circulars and OMs applicable in her case.

c. To direct the respondents 1 to 7 to pay arrears of pension in accordance of the revision along with interest @ 18% per annum with all other consequential benefits from 1986 till the date of payment;

d. To set aside Annexure A6 to the extent it says that the request of the applicant to revise the pension cannot be processed due to nonavailability of records.

e. Direct the respondents to produce all the records of the case along with their reply for perusal by this Hon'ble Tribunal;

f. All the cost of this application to the applicant.

g. Pass such other orders or reliefs as deemed fit and proper in the facts and circumstances of the case in the favour of the applicant and against the respondent.

2. The applicant is a senior citizen aged 98 years. Her husband had retired from service on 31.10.1967 while working in the Income Tax Department as Appellate Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax. The pension sanctioning authority had authorised pension of Rs.411/- per month as per Pension Payment Order No.K02629. Shri Srikumara Kaimal, the husband of the applicant, passed away on 14.09.1986. The 8th respondent issued an authorisation to the Central Bank of India to pay Rs.144/- as family pension as per Annexure A2. Thereafter, on each revision available to Central Government employees as per Vth to VIIIth Pay Commissions, the applicant continued to receive only minimum family pension which was Rs.144/- with effect from 14.09.1986, Rs.3500/- with effect from 01.01.2006 and Rs.9000/- with effect from 01.01.2006.

3. Lately, she has come to realise that the respondents have failed to fix the family pension on the basis of the basic pay drawn at the time of retirement of her husband attached to the post corresponding to the post which he had retired from, duly taking into account the subsequent pay revisions. Thus according to the applicant, fixing her family pension at the minimum of the scales was erroneous. She filed a representation dated 13.10.2017 (Annexure A3) which was replied to by the 8th Respondent dated 07.12.2017 stating that they were no longer responsible for attending to pension matters from 01.01.1990 (Annexure A4). The applicant thereupon put up her grievance before Pension Adalat of the Income Tax Department (Annexure A5). She pointed out in the representation that the deceased husband of the applicant had retired as Appellate Assistant Commissioner of

Income Tax, the post which was abolished and the department had re-designated as Additional Commissioner of Income Tax. Hence the family pension is to be fixed on the basis of the last pay drawn attached to the corresponding post and at any rate not less than the minimum of existing scale, corresponding to the post from which the deceased husband of the applicant had retired.

4. Annexure A6 is a copy of the letter issued on 18.06.2018 from the office of the Principal Chief Commissioner, Income Tax wherein it is stated that "since no details in respect of the officer as regards old pay scale is available as the officer has retired long way back on 31.10.1967, this office is not in a position to calculate

the accurate eligibility of the officers, Family pension as on 01.01.1996, 01.01.2006 and 01.01.2016 is proposed to be fixed at the minimum of Rs.1275/-, Rs.3500/- and Rs.9000/- respectively, which has already been done or the same may be fixed based on the assumption that the officer being an Appellate Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax (Senior Class 1 post) at the time of retirement which is at present the post of Additional CIT at Rs.36930/- w.e.f. 1.1.2016 which is the minimum of revised Family pension w.e.f. 1.1.2016 as per table No.43 in the scale of pay level 13."

5. However, no action took place pursuant to this communication. The applicant finds fault with the tendency of the respondents to ignore her request for correct fixation of pension. In this regard she calls to her assistance the orders of the apex Court in D.S. Nakara v. Union of India –1983 (1) SCC 305. The applicant points out that the respondents are duty bound to fix the family pension in accordance with the relevant extant guidelines, pension revision orders, office memoranda applicable in each case, even without any request from the pensioner. They cannot take up the plea of absence of relevant documents to cover up their inaction.

6. Omitted.

7. This is a case involving the claims due to an individual who is a widow, who is extremely old. If the endorsement at Annexure A6 is to be taken in to account the department itself has supported her case, yet there has been no positive move on the part of the official respondents to bring quietus to the subject. To her persistent inquiries, all that she has received so far, has been a reply that the details relating to her husband's service cannot be located. This is clearly not the way an aged pensioner and her family are to be treated. We entirely agree with the sentiments expressed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the judgment referred to which deprecated the tendency of authorities to view the notion of pension as a bounty granted as gratuitous payment. In a case of this nature, the respondents ought to have acted with great alacrity and taken action to revise the pension with arrears based on the facts before them, which are not under dispute.

8. In view of the facts above, we direct the respondents-2, 3, 7 and 8 to urgently take action to calculate the family pension due to the applicant in accordance with Rule 54 of Central Civil (Pension) Rules and other relevant guidelines and circulars applicable. This shall be done within two months from date of receipt of a copy of this order. OA succeeds and all reliefs are granted except for the interest portion.

Copy of Railway Board's letter No. E(W)/2016/PS5-8/2 RBE No.152/2019 dated 25.09.2019

SUB: RECKONING OF HALF OF PAST SERVICE RENDERED IN CENTRAL/STATE GOVT. ESTABLISHMENTS FOR POST-RETIREMENT COMPLIMENTARY PASS (PRCP) FACILITY.

Ref: Advance Correction Slip (ACS) No.56 to Railway Servants (Pass) Rules, 1986 (Second Edition-1993) (RSPR-1986) issued vide Board's letter No. E(W)/2006 PSS-1128 dated 08.05.2008.

In the PNM/NFIR Meeting with Board, the Federation has brought to notice that the condition incorporated in RSPR-1986 vide above referred ACs has restricted the weightage of half of past non-railway service for determining 20 years of qualifying service for PRCP facility only to the lateral entrants who had got their past service counted along with the railway service for pensionary benefits and it has resulted in disadvantage to the ex-servicemen who did not opt for such counting of their previous service while joining the railways.

2. After detailed examination, it has been decided to remove the said condition so as to extend the benefit of weightage equivalent to half of past non-railway service uniformly to all ex-servicemen and other such affected lateral entrants to cover the shortfall in the minimum requisite railway service of 20 years for PRCP facility. Accordingly, the Competent Authority has accorded his approval for amending Item No.(xi) under Col.3 of Schedule-IV (Post Retirement Complimentary Pass) of RSPR-1986 as follows:-

"(xi) In case of lateral entrants to railway service, including ex-servicemen, half of previous non-railway service rendered in the establishments of Central/State Government will be added to the actual railway service for determining their eligibility to Post Retirement Complimentary Passes".

3. In the case of retired lateral entrants, who have now become eligible for PRCP facility under the above provision, the Pass Issuing Authority (PIA) from where such employees retired will process the requests and extend the facility as per rules on the basis of past service records/documents. Similarly, in the case of deceased lateral entrants, Widow Pass facility, as admissible under the rules, may be extended by the PIA from where the deceased employee retired. Such beneficiaries may also be permitted to get their pass accounts transferred to the PIA of their choice. 4. The PRCP/Widow Pass under the above provision will be issued to the eligible lateral entrant/spouse only from the current calendar year.

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* RSCWS DLC TEAM: SATISH SHARMA, R. K. DATA. KNS VIRK. ANOOP KUMAR & JASPAL SINGH

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