



PENSIONERS' RAIL SAMPARK

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SPECIAL ISSUE ON SEVENTH PAY COMMISSION REPORT

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7TH PAY COMMISSION REPORT SUBMITTED TO GOVT – TO BE EFFECTIVE FROM JAN 1, 2016

GENERAL RISE OF 2.57 TIMES OF BASIC PAY & PENSION FOR PRE 2016 PENSIONERS AND ITS PARITY WITH POST 2016 PENSIONERS

- GOVT FORMS IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE, EMPLOYEES VERY UNHAPPY, OBSERVE NATIONAL PROTEST DAY

The Seventh Pay Commission submitted its report to Minister of Finance on 19th November, 2015 and has proposed that the same be implemented from January 1, 2016 with a general rise of 2.57 times of Basic Pay & Pension with option to pensioners for parity with post-2016 Pensioners

The Govt. set up an Implementation Committee on the Pay Commission as per Notification issued by Ministry of Finance (Expenditure) on November 20, 2015.

The employees as well as Pensioners were agitated especially on account of very low rise of 2.57 times of Basic Pay & Pension. This tantamount to only 14.2% rise of emoluments in spite of high inflation in real terms as against 21.5% proposed by the 6th Pay Commission. As such, all Central Government employees observed a National Protest Day on November 27, 2015 and are likely to go on a General/Indefinite Strike soon against the most retrograde Report by a Pay Commission in the last over 60 years since Independence.

Commission has, however, accepted the demand of Pensioners for grant of parity in fixation of Pension of Pre-2016 Pensioners with Post-2016 Pensioners and given following two options for fixation of Pension:

i) *All the civilian personnel including CAPF who retired prior to 01.01.2016 (Expected date of implementation of the Seventh CPC recommendations) shall first be fixed in the Pay Matrix being recommended by this Commission, on the basis of the Pay Band and Grade Pay at which they retired, at the minimum of the corresponding level in the matrix. This amount shall be raised, to arrive at the notional pay of the retiree, by adding the number of increments he/she had earned in that level while in service, at the rate of three percent. Fifty percent of the total amount so arrived at shall be the revised pension.*

ii) *The second calculation to be carried out will be by multiplying with 2.57 the pension, as had been fixed on implementation of the VI CPC recommendations,*

iii) *Pensioners may be fixed at higher of the two values.*

(SEE OTHER DETAILS OF 7TH CPC REPORT INSIDE, TABLE FOR REVISED PENSION ON PAGE 2 & NOTE ON PAGE 5)

**MEMBERS RSCWS - PLEASE ATTEND WITH YOUR SPOUSE & OTHER RAILWAY PENSIONERS
SPECIAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF RSCWS ON 7TH PAY COMMISSION &
SEMINAR ON "SKIN PROBLEMS" BY DR. JATIN SHARMA, DERMATOLOGIST, FORTIS MED CENTER,
FROM 10 AM TO 12.30 ON TUESDAY 15TH DECEMBER, 2015
AT GOVERNMENT MUSEUM & ART GALLERY AUDITORIUM, SECTOR 10, CHANDIGARH
PLEASE REACH IN TIME & DO JOIN US FOR LUNCH AFTER THE MEETING.**

– President & Secretary General RSCWS

PB	GP	MIN PENS IN VI CPC	LEVEL OF VII CPC	AGE	REV MIN PENS OPTION 1 with 2.57 Multiple	REVISED PENSION OPTION 2 WITH INCREMENT @ 3% PA FOR NUMBER OF INCREMENTS EARNED WHILE IN SERVICE																
						0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
1	1800	3655	1	Up to 80	9419	9000	9250	9550	10450	10750	11050	11400	11750	12100	12450	12800	13200	13600	14000			
				80-85	11000	11800	12450	13250	13950	14650	15350	16050	16750	17450	18150	18850	19550	20250	20950	21650	22350	
				85-90	12245	11700	12025	12415	12805	13195	13585	13975	14365	14755	15145	15535	15925	16315	16705	17095	17485	17875
				Up to 80	9997	9950	10250	10550	10850	11200	11550	11900	12250	12600	12950	13300	13650	14000	14350	14700	15050	15400
				80-85	11997	11940	12300	12660	13020	13380	13740	14100	14460	14820	15180	15540	15900	16260	16620	16980	17340	17700
1	1900	3890	2	Up to 80	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935			
				80-85	12996	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935		
				85-90	12996	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935	12935		
				Up to 80	12644	12750	13150	13550	13950	14350	14750	15150	15550	15950	16350	16750	17150	17550	17950	18350	18750	
				80-85	15173	15300	16260	16740	17220	17700	18180	18660	19140	19620	20100	20580	21060	21540	22020	22500	22980	
1	2800	5885	5	Up to 80	14353	14600	15050	15500	16450	16950	17450	17950	18450	18950	19450	19950	20450	20950	21450	21950		
				80-85	17224	17520	18060	18600	19140	19680	20220	20760	21300	21840	22380	22920	23460	24000	24540	25080	25620	
				85-90	18659	18980	19585	20150	20735	21385	22035	22685	23335	23985	24635	25285	25935	26585	27235	27885	28535	
				Up to 80	17348	17700	18250	18800	19350	19900	20450	21000	21550	22100	22650	23200	23750	24300	24850	25400	25950	
				80-85	20817	21240	21900	22560	23220	23880	24540	25200	25860	26520	27180	27840	28500	29160	29820	30480	31140	
2	4600	9230	7	Up to 80	23721	22450	23100	23725	24440	25155	25870	26585	27300	28015	28730	29445	30160	30875	31590	32305		
				80-85	27062	26940	27720	28560	29400	30300	31200	32100	33120	34140	35160	36240	37320	38460	39600	40800		
				85-90	30837	29185	30030	30940	31850	32825	33800	34840	35880	36985	38090	39260	40430	41665	42900	44200		
				Up to 80	24094	23800	24500	25250	26000	26800	27600	28450	29300	30200	31100	32050	33000	34000	35000	36050		
				80-85	27005	28560	29400	30300	31200	32160	33120	34140	35160	36240	37320	38460	39600	40800	42000	43260		
2	5400	10140	9	Up to 80	31850	28560	29400	30300	31200	32160	33120	34140	35160	36240	37320	38460	39600	40800	42000			
				80-85	34860	32820	33780	34800	35900	37000	38100	39250	40450	41650	42900	44200	45500	46800	48120			
				85-90	33878	34515	35555	36595	37700	38805	39975	41145	42380	43680	45000	46345	47710	49140	50655			
				Up to 80	28050	28900	29700	30650	31500	32500	33500	34500	35500	36600	37700	38850	40000	41200				
				80-85	32382	33660	34680	35760	36900	38100	39300	40600	42000	43500	45000	46600	48200					
3	6600	12600	11	Up to 80	35081	36465	37570	38675	39845	41015	42250	43550	44915	47580	49010	50505	52000	53560				
				80-85	32382	33850	34850	35900	37000	38100	39250	40450	41650	42900	44200	45500	46800	48120				
				85-90	33858	40620	41820	43060	44400	45720	47100	48540	49980	51480	53040	54660	56280					
				Up to 80	28050	28900	29700	30650	31500	32500	33500	34500	35500	36600	37700	38850						
				80-85	32382	33660	34680	35760	36900	38100	39300	40600	42000	43500	45000	46600						
3	7600	14960	12	Up to 80	38450	46140	47280	48720	50160	51660	53220	54840	56460	58140	59880	61680	63540	65460				
				80-85	49880	54220	52780	54340	55965	57655	59410	61165	63000	64920	66930	69000						
				85-90	59239	59250	61050	62900	64800	66750	68750	70800	72900	75100	77350	79650						
				Up to 80	38450	46140	47280	48720	50160	51660	53220	54840	56460	58140	59880							
				80-85	71086	71100	73260	75480	77760	80100	82500	84960	87480	90120	92820	95580						
4	8900	24295	13A	Up to 80	62438	65550	67500	69550	71650	73800	76000	78300	80550	83050	85550	88100	90750					
				80-85	74926	78660	81000	83460	85960	88560	91200	93960	96780	99660	102660	105720						
				85-90	81170	85215	87750	90415	93145	95940	98800	101790	104845	107965	111215	114590						
				Up to 80	70290	72100	74200	76500	78800	81100	83500	86100	88700	91300	94100							
				80-85	84347	86520	89100	91680	94560	97580	100320	103320	106440	109620	112920	116280						
4	10000	27350	14	Up to 80	91376	93730	96525	99450	102440	105495	108680	111930	115310	118755	122330	125970						
				80-85	10350	10650	11000	11350	11700	12050	12400	12750	13100	13450	13800							
				85-90	11070	11570	12120	12720	13320	13920	14520	15120	15720	16320	16920							
				Up to 80	91376	93730	96525	99450	102440	105495	108680	111930	115310	118755	122330							
				80-85	10350	10650	11000	11350	11700	12050	12400	12750	13100	13450	13800							

NOTE: Based on the recommendations of 7th CPC vide Para 10.1.87 of its Report, an ALL-IN-ONE table for pension has been prepared from where the likely pension can be determined easily.

- The table covers all the 5th CPC scales from S 4 to S 29 (except S 6) grouped in 4 PBs after 6th CPC. These have been assigned Levels 1 to 14 in the matrix table by 7th CPC.
- The table also gives pension for pensioners falling in 3 age groups i.e. upto 80 years and with additional pension @ 20% and 30% after the age of 80 and 85 respectively.
- Since the pension as per option 2 may take time, the pension as per option 1 (with a factor of 2.57) may be paid in the first instance as an interim measure.
- Pension as per option-1 is to be calculated on the basis of pension as fixed after 6th CPC. This being different for pensioners retiring from the same scale, the figures in the table under option -1 are according to the minimum revised basic pension as per DOPOM dated 30-7-2015. The Pension is to be finally fixed at the higher of the two Options.
- In some levels like levels 6, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14, there is no common min revised pension as per 6th CPC (differing with each scale though GP is same). The table can accommodate only one figure. Therefore, in such cases lowest of the figure has been taken as representative of the respective level.

Compiled by N.P. MOHAN C.E (Retd.), Railways & President RSCWS

Extracts of Chapter 10.1 of 7th CPC Report**PENSION AND RELATED BENEFITS OF CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES****Raising the Existing Rates of Pension and Family Pension**

10.1.24 In representations to and in meetings with the Commission a number of entities have, while seeking a raise in pension from the existing level of 50 percent of last pay drawn, questioned the basis for determination of pension at 50 percent of last pay drawn. Similarly representations for increasing family pension from existing 30 percent to 50 percent of the last pay drawn have been received by the Commission.

Analysis and Recommendations

10.1.25 The Commission sought the views of the government in this regard. The Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare stated that the VI CPC had recommended calculation of pension @ 50 percent of last pay or the average emoluments (for last 10 months) whichever is more beneficial. The Commission also recommended delinking of pension from qualifying service of 33 years. Effectively the dispensation on pension has already been liberalised by the VI CPC. Further the recommendations of this Commission in relation to pay of both the civilian and defence forces personnel will lead to a significant increase in the pay drawn and therefore in the 'last pay drawn'/'reckonable emoluments.' Therefore the Commission does not recommend any further increase in the rate of pension and family pension from the existing levels.

10.1.27 increase in the minimum pay from the existing ₹7,000 per month to ₹18,000 per month. This, based on the computation of pension, will raise minimum pension from the existing ₹3,500 to ₹9,000. The minimum pension based on the recommendations of this Commission will increase by 2.57 times over the existing level.

Increase in the Rate of Additional Pension and Family Pension to the Older Pensioners**Analysis and Recommendations**

10.1.30 it is felt that the same should be allowed from 75 years onwards. The Ministry of Defence has not supported the proposal. The Commission is of the view that the existing rates of additional pension and additional family pension are appropriate.

Parity in Pension between Pre and Post Seventh CPC Retirees**Analysis and Recommendations**

10.1.54 The Commission is of the view that the issue of parity in pensions is extremely important from the viewpoint of inter-temporal equity and merits a careful examination.

10.1.55 Treatment of Existing and Past Pensioners over time: The concerns of pensioners' associations and of individual pensioners on the issue of disparities in pensions

(The Commission considered this point over the period of time by various CPCs starting from III CPC, and subsequent development for parity in pension between past and present retirees, leading to the recommendation of V CPC for modified parity etc., and later in the 6th CPC dispensations, leading to several representations and court cases. The Commission also referred to various Court judgements including the case of D S Nakra- Paras 10.1.56 to 10.1.65).

10.1.67 The Commission recommends the following pension formulation for civil employees including CAPF personnel, who have retired before 01.01.2016:

i) All the civilian personnel including CAPF who retired prior to 01.01.2016 (Expected date of implementation of the 7th CPC recommendations) shall first be fixed in the Pay Matrix being recommended by this Commission, on the basis of the Pay Band and Grade Pay at which they retired, at the minimum of the corresponding level in the matrix. This amount shall be raised, to arrive at the notional pay of the retiree, by adding the number of increments he/she had earned in that level while in service, at the rate of three percent. Fifty percent of the total amount so arrived at shall be the revised pension. (*The pensioner will get the higher of the two*).

ii) The second calculation to be carried out is as follows. The pension, as had been fixed at the time of implementation of the VI CPC recommendations, shall be multiplied by 2.57 to arrive at an alternate value for the revised pension.

iii) Pensioners may be given the option to choose whichever formulation is beneficial to them.

10.1.68 It is recognised that the fixation of pension as per formulation in (i) above may take a little time since the records of each pensioner will have to be checked to ascertain the number of increments earned in the retiring level. It is therefore recommended that in the first instance the revised pension may be calculated as at (ii) above and the same may be paid as an interim measure. In the event calculation as per (i) above yields a higher amount the difference may be paid subsequently.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Extracts of Chapter 10.1 of 7th CPC Report (Continued from Page 3)**10.1.69 Illustrations on fixation of pension based on recommendations of the Seventh CPC.**

10.1.70 Pensioner 'A' retired at last pay drawn of ₹79,000 on 30 May, 2015 under the VI CPC regime, having drawn three increments in the scale ₹67,000 to 79,000:

		Amount in ₹
1	Basic Pension fixed in VI CPC	39,500
2	Initial Pension fixed under Seventh CPC (using a multiple of 2.57)	1,01,515 - Option 1
3	Minimum of the corresponding pay level in 7 CPC	1,82,200
4	Notional Pay fixation based on 3 increments	1,99,100
5	50 percent of the notional pay so arrived	99,550 - Option 2
6	Pension amount admissible (higher of Option 1 and 2)	1,01,515

Case II

10.1.71 Pensioner 'B' retired at last pay drawn of ₹4,000 on 31 January, 1989 under the IV CPC regime, having drawn 9 increments in the pay scale of ₹3000-100-3500-125-4500:

		Amount in ₹
1	Basic Pension fixed in IV CPC	1,940
2	Basic Pension as revised in VI CPC	12,543
3	Initial Pension fixed under Seventh CPC (using a multiple of 2.57)	32,236 Option 1
4	Minimum of the corresponding pay level in 7 CPC	67,700
5	Notional Pay fixation based on 9 increments	88,400
6	50 percent of the notional pay so arrived	44,200 Option 2
7	Pension amount admissible (higher of Option 1 and 2)	44,200

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF 7TH CPC REPORT REG. PENSIONERS

Gratuity: Enhancement in the ceiling of gratuity from the existing ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh. The ceiling on gratuity may be raised by 25 percent whenever DA rises by 50 percent.

Disability Pension for Armed Forces: The Commission is recommending reverting to a slab based system for disability element, instead of existing percentile based disability pension regime.

Ex-gratia Lump sum Compensation to Next of Kin: The Commission is recommending the revision of rates of lump sum compensation for next of kin (NOK) in case of death arising in various circumstances relating to performance of duties, to be applied uniformly for the defence forces personnel and civilians including CAPF personnel.

Martyr Status for CAPF Personnel: The Commission is of the view that in case of death in the line of duty, the force personnel of CAPFs should be accorded martyr status, at par with the defence forces personnel.

New Pension System: The Commission received many grievances relating to NPS. It has recommended a number of steps to improve the functioning of NPS. It has also recommended establishment of a strong grievance redressal mechanism.

Full report of 7th CPC and extracts of other related chapters are available in the RSCWS website www.rscws.com

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SH. C. P. SINGH, TREASURER, RSCWS, G-210 RAIL VIHAR, MDC, SECTOR 4, PANCHKULA (CHANDIGARH)- 134114

(PH. 09888054477)

OR through the Members of the Executive Committee RSCWS residing in the area

- PRESIDENT & SECRETARY GENERAL, RSCWS

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES OF PAY MATRIX SYSTEM

As enlisted by 7th CPC in Chapter 5.1 of its Report

7th Pay Commission has introduced a new pay fixation table named as "Pay Matrix" for all categories of employees and officers working in Central Government services. Earlier, the 6th CPC had introduced new "Grade Pay & Pay Band" system. Following features of Pay Matrix system are enlisted by 7th CPC:

1. The issues raised by various stakeholders in respect of the existing pay structure have been addressed by subsuming of grade pay and pay bands into one composite level.

2. The correction of variable spacing between adjacent grades pay and pay bands by way of rationalisation has been effected. The disparity between PB-3 and PB-4 has been set right by the process of normalisation. This will help address the demands for up gradation of grade pay received in the Commission solely on grounds of disparity between various pay bands.

3. The fixation of revised pay has been greatly simplified in the new pay matrix and will not involve further calculations. The basic pay being drawn by any person on the date of implementation is to be multiplied by a factor of 2.57 and the figure so obtained will be matched for the closest figure in the level pertaining to his/her existing grade pay and fixed there.

4. The issue of differential entry pay has been resolved.

5. The employee can traverse both vertically within a level in the new pay matrix by way of annual progression, and horizontally across levels by way of MACP as well as on regular promotion. This will enable him/her to visualise the career path across levels and span of service.

6. The new matrix will provide greater visibility and transparency with respect to actual pay drawn as compared to the earlier system of pay scales or pay bands. It will also depict the exact amount payable to a person in relation to number of years spent in service in each level.

7. The new pay matrix is expected to be easy to administer.

8. In line with the principle of greater transparency, the new pay matrix will provide an unambiguous and complete view of the pay system in the Government of India.

9. The pay matrix can be gainfully analysed to provide crucial data on trends in pay progression, number of personnel populating each level, number of personnel entering and retiring at various levels, promotional trends of various cadres, financial outgo at various levels, and so on. Hence, it can act as a powerful tool to bring in financial management reforms.

Similar pay matrices have been designed for the personnel of defence forces and the MNS so as to ensure uniformity in pay structures.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF 7TH CPC ON MEDICAL FACILITIES FOR SERVING EMPLOYEES AND PENSIONERS (Chapter 9.5 Report)

9.5.1 The Central Government provides health care facilities for both serving and retired employees. Employees of some Central Government organisations, like Railways and Defence, are covered by captive medical facilities provided by the concerned administrative ministries. Certain other organisations have limited medical facilities covering out-patient treatment and limited hospitalisation. The general coverage of Central Government employees is under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) and the Central Service (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944 [CS (MA) Rules].

9.5.2 CGHS, under the aegis of Department of Health and Family Welfare, provides out-patient (OPD)/in-patient (IPD) treatment to its beneficiaries - both serving & retired employees - within its area of operation. Serving employees of the Central Govt, outside CGHS area and thus not under its coverage, avail medical facilities under CS (MA).

9.5.3 CS (MA) Rules, 1944 are statutory provisions for medical relief to the serving Central Government employees and their family members who are not residing in CGHS covered cities. There is a provision for appointment of Authorized Medical Attendants (AMA) by the concerned department for their employees either from the Medical Officers working under the State/Central Government or from private practitioners depending upon the situation.

9.5.4 Pensioners are not covered under the CS (MA) Rules. Pensioners residing outside CGHS areas are entitled to Fixed Medical Allowance (FMA) @ ₹500 per month for their OPD/IPD needs. Such pensioners can also avail IPD/ OPD under CGHS subject to some conditions,

9.5.5 During its interactions with various stakeholders, the Commission has received numerous demands relating to medical facilities. Broadly, these demands are as follows:

a. *CGHS should be expanded and improved:* More private hospitals should be empanelled in such a way that they are nearer to the residence cluster of the beneficiaries.

b. *Pensioners be treated at par with serving employees:* It has been represented that CS(MA) be extended to pensioners residing outside CGHS Area. It has been demanded that Smart Cards be issued to all pensioners for availing cashless medical facilities across the country in all government hospitals, all accredited Multi Super Speciality Hospitals which have been allotted land at concessional rates, all CGHS, (Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) empanelled Hospitals.

(Continued on Page 6)

RECOMMENDATIONS OF 7TH CPC ON MEDICAL FACILITIES (CONTD. FROM PAGE 5)

c. It has been demanded that the amount of FMA be raised to ₹2,000 with DA thereon.

d. It has been pointed out that P&T pensioners who did not subscribe to CGHS while in service are not covered under CGHS post retirement. It has also been demanded that all P&T dispensaries should be merged with CGHS so that these pensioners can avail IPD/OPD benefits.

Recommendations: Health Insurance Scheme

9.5.15 In this backdrop, the Commission opines that health insurance for the government employees and pensioners remains the most optimal route for ensuring complete coverage for all employees, pensioners and their dependants in the long run. The IV CPC had suggested that feasibility and modalities of an Insurance Scheme for government employees in lieu of medical reimbursement may be considered by the government. The VI CPC had recommended introduction of a health insurance scheme for Central Government employees and pensioners.

It had recommended that for existing employees and pensioners, the scheme should be available on a voluntary basis, subject to their paying the prescribed contribution. It had also been recommended that the health insurance scheme should be compulsory for new government employees who would be joining service after the introduction of the Scheme.

Similarly, it had recommended that those retiring after the introduction of the insurance scheme would be covered under the Scheme.

9.5.16 The Commission observes that in view of the recommendations of the earlier Pay Commissions and various high power committees, the government has been contemplating the introduction of a health insurance scheme on Pan-India basis. The Commission notes that although the Committee of Secretaries had given its 'in principle' approval way back in 2011, and an amount of ₹ 2,061 crore had been earmarked under the XII Five Year Plan, the Scheme has still not been implemented.

9.5.17 The Commission notes that given the tardiness in the introduction of the long awaited Insurance Scheme, as already mentioned earlier in this chapter, the pensioners residing outside CGHS area will continue to be at a disadvantage, in terms of medical facilities, compared to their counterparts residing in CGHS areas. As stated earlier in this chapter, according to existing provisions, pensioner residing outside CGHS area but subscribing to CGHS for OPD/IPD can avail medical facility from any hospital - private or public or empanelled under CS (MA)/ECHS - in his/her own city. However, in such cases, the pensioners have to make upfront payment to the hospital and claim reimbursement later. The Commission feels that this could be a limiting factor for many pensioners who may not have the resources to pay hospital expenses upfront. The Commission notes that under CS (MA) Rules/ECHS, there are empanelled hospitals in every part of the country, at least in all major locations. In this backdrop, after identification of some major centres/cities based on minimum population threshold of pensioners, these hospitals could be empanelled by CGHS as well, for extending medical facilities on a cashless basis.

9.5.18 Considering all the issues, the Commission makes the following recommendations:

i. The Commission strongly recommends the introduction of health insurance scheme for Central Government employees and pensioners. In the interregnum, for the benefit of pensioners residing outside the CGHS areas, the Commission recommends that CGHS should empanel those hospitals which are already empanelled under CS (MA)/ECHS for catering to the medical requirement of these pensioners on a cashless basis. This would involve strengthening of administrative capacity of nearest CGHS centres. However, this step will go a long way in ameliorating the pending grievances of these pensioners.

iii. Currently, there are various health care schemes in the Central Government catering to specific sets of employees. For example, apart from CGHS, there are Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) and Railways Employees Liberalized Health Scheme (RELHS) which cover ex-servicemen and Railway employees/pensioners, respectively. Although the patterns in these schemes vary, a combined entity of CGHS-ECHS-RELHS would result in a very strong network of health facilities for the Central Government employees across the length and breadth of the country. The Commission recommends that possibility of such a combined network of various medical schemes should be explored through proper examination.

RSCWS RECEIVES GRANT IN AID FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

RSCWS has received the recurring grant-in-aid of Rs.75000 for the second year from the government through DOP&PW under Pensioners Portal to represent the grievances of the Pensioners. The Grant has been given to be utilized under the specified heads on the basis of the working report of the Society for the previous year 2014-15. The unspent amount of Rs.11137 in the last year has been adjusted from the said grant.

RSCWS is one of the 28 Associations of Pensioners which have received the Grant out of over 700 Pensioners Associations working in India.

Meanwhile, RSCWS has also got itself registered under "SANKALP – an initiative of DOP&PW to engage Pensioners in meaningful social work. RSCWS has launched its own Social Welfare fund and already given grants to various NGO working for the poor and the destitute.

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Orders of Railway Board**ALL SUPERANNUATED PENSIONERS ELIGIBLE TO JOIN RELHS
IRRESPECTIVE OF DATE OF RETIREMENT**

Copy of Railway Board's letter No. 2013/H/PNM/NFIR dated 17.11.2015 to all GMs

Sub:-Retired Employees Liberalized Health Scheme (RELHS-97).

Ref:-This office letter of even no. dated 8.9.2015

The decision of competent authority in the Ministry of Railways to extend the facility of joining RELHS-97 to those Railway employees who retired at the normal age of superannuation irrespective of number of years of their service before superannuation, was conveyed to the Zonal Railways vide Board's letter cited under reference. However, one of the Zonal Railways has raised the issue of cut-off date of implementation of the order. The issue has been examined in consultation with Finance Directorate in the Board's office.

In this context it is clarified that the instruction issued vide Board's letter cited under reference is applicable to all Railway employees who have retired or retiring from Railway service on attaining age of superannuation without any Cut-off date.

This issues with the concurrence of Finance Directorate in the Board's office.

Copy of Railway Board's letter No. 2013/H/PNM/NFIR dated 8-9-2015 to all GMs

Sub:-Retired Employees Liberalized Health Scheme (RELHS-97).

Ref:- (i) Board's letter No.2003/H/28/1/RELHS dated 28.01.2005, 21.10.200, 30.12.2005, 10.05.2005, 10.01.2007 & 16.03.2009

(ii) Board's letter No.2011/H/28/1/RELHS/Court case dated 31.05.2012.

The question of extending RELHS-97 facility to those retired employees also who joined Railways late but Retired at the normal age of superannuation before completing 20 years of service i.e. the minimum qualifying service required for joining RELHS, has been engaging attention of Ministry of Railways for some time. The issue was also been raised by both the recognized employee Federations (AIRF & NFIR).

After careful consideration in the matter, the Competent Authority in the Ministry of Railways has decided to extend facility of joining RELHS-97 to all those Railway Employees who retired at the normal age of superannuation irrespective of number of years of their service before superannuation. If such employees have any previous service from any other Government Department which makes them eligible for medical facility of that Department also, they should opt for one of the two facilities viz. Medical facility of the Department of previous service or RELHS-97.

Other terms and conditions of joining RELHS-97, mentioned in Board's letters cited under reference, will remain unaltered. This issues with the concurrence of Finance Directorate of Ministry of Railways. Wide publicity should be given to the above position.

Copy of Railway Board's letter No. 2013/H/PNM/NFIR dated 14.07.2015

Sub:-Provision of Emergency Railway Medical Facilities to Railway Beneficiaries.

All Railway Employees, their spouse and eligible dependents are eligible to avail Medical Facilities in Railway Hospitals and Health Units etc. Similarly on joining RELHS-97, the Retired Employees, their spouse and eligible dependents also become eligible for same level of Medical Facilities as that of serving Railway employees.

Instances have come to the notice of the Board that the Railway Medical Beneficiaries are facing difficulties in availing railway medical facilities during emergencies in places other than the place where their medical card is registered.

The matter has been examined in the Board's Office and it has been decided with the approval of competent authority that the Railway Hospitals, Health Units etc would ensure adequate medical facility to serving employees, their spouse and eligible dependents/ RELHS-97 card holders, their spouse and eligible dependents in emergencies. Such a facility will be extended on production of railway medical identity card/ any other documentary proof that establishes the railway identity in case of serving railway employees and RELHS-97 cards in case of retired railway employees.

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