

RAILWAYS SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE SOCIETY

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<p>N. P, Mohan, Ex-CE, President, RSCWS, 1023, Sector 15 B, Chandigarh-160015 (Ph: 01722772875,9417870544) Email: npmohan34@gmail.com</p>		<p>Harchandan Singh, Secretary General, RSCWS 32, Phase- 6, Mohali-160055 (Ph. 0172 2228306, 09316131598) Email : harchandan_chd32@yahoo.co.in</p>
<p>No. RSCWS/ Memo-MOP&PW / FMA / 2013-3</p>		<p>Dated: 23-6-2013</p>

1. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, South Block, New Delhi.
2. Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance Expenditure, North Block, New Delhi.
3. Hon'ble Minister of State for Personnel & Pension, North Block, New Delhi,

Dear Sir,

Subject: Appeal for Revision of Fixed Medical Allowance for the Central Govt. Pensioners
– i) At par with FMA paid to EPFO employees & Pensioners with the approval Govt.
– ii) In proportion to the average expenditure on OPD Treatment in CGHS

Reference: i) DOP (P&PW) OM No. 4/252008-P&PW(D) Dated 26-5-2010
ii) Agenda item No. 9 of the Meeting of JCM (NC) held on 18-5-2011
iii) Our Memorandum No. RSCWS/ Memo / PM / FMA / 2012 - 1 Dated 11-2-2012
iv) MOS (Finance Expenditure) Letter No. 4.2/24/2008-IC Dated 16-1-2012 to MOS P&P
v) EPFO Letter No, HRM-8/V/12/1/2003/FMA/Vol-117/6160 Dated 13 JUN 2013 *(Copy attached)*

In continuation of our Memorandum Dated 11-2-2012 cited above, we deeply regret that our appeal, had not been accepted by the Government, for Revision of Fixed Medical Allowance (FMA) from Rs.300 PM to Rs.1200, at par with EPFO, for day-to-day treatment, to Central Government Pensioners residing in Non-CGHS areas and those who are not getting any OPD treatment from CGHS or Railway Hospitals etc. whereas the Fixed Medical Allowance has been enhanced by EPFO from Rs.1200 to Rs.2000 PM vide EPFO letter dated 13-6-2013 cited above, for Outdoor Medical treatment for all Employees & Pensioners of EPFO (Employees' Provident Fund Organisation) - Ministry of Labour and Employment, Govt. of India.

This is highly discriminatory, illegal, ultra-vires of Constitution and extremely frustrating for the large number of Central Government Pensioners who are paid a meager amount of Rs.300 p.m. as FMA for day-to-day Medical Treatment and have no access to the CGHS Dispensaries or Railway Hospitals, while residing at long distances from such facilities.

We very humbly appeal to you once again to please re-consider the entire issue – especially in the light of the following facts - keeping in view of the extreme hardship of the Pensioners who have given their whole life serving the Government sincerely and dedicatedly:

1. The amount of Rs.300 PM paid as FMA to CG Pensioners is so negligible that it does not meet even a “fraction” of day-to-day Medical expenses for treatment of old-age problems. It defeats the very purpose for which it is purported to be paid. It seems to be a cruel joke with the Senior Citizens who have given valuable years of their lives to the service of the Nation.

2. Inflation in Cost of (OPD) treatment: Cost of OPD treatment per Card Holder under CGHS, had increased 5 to 6 times since 2003-04 (*based on which MoH had initially recommended the amount of Rs. 300 PM plus DA as FMA*).

3. The total per card holder expenditure on OPD treatment, had increased from Rs.3570 per annum (or say Rs.300 per month) in 2003-04 to Rs.16,435 per annum (i.e. Rs.1369 or say Rs. 1400 per month) in 2007-08. Adding to it the proportionate inflation for year up to May 2010 (*when the revised amount of FMA was sanctioned*), the expenditure per card holder can be placed on proportionate basis, at over Rs.1650 pm in 2009-10, Rs.2000 pm in the year 2010-11 and much higher in 2012-13 and thereafter, even at the discounted cost of medicines purchased by CGHS.

4. Counting of DA or inflation for FMA: FMA should be linked with inflation and adding DA – to offset the impact of continuous rise in the cost of Medicines and on Consultations etc for Day-to-Day out-door medical treatment.

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5. Non-revision of FMA for over 12 years – unlike Medical Allowance granted initially: Medical Allowance was initially granted to Central Government employees in June 1986 – with the provision to revise the same every 3 years. This practice was followed up to 1997. But no revision had been done from 1997 to 2010 in the FMA of Rs.100 (granted after Fifth CPC).

6. Rs.2000 PM granted as FMA in EPFO: a) Fixed Medical Allowance has been enhanced by EPFO from Rs.1200 to Rs.2000 PM vide EPFO letter dated 13-6-2013 cited above, for Outdoor Medical treatment for all Employees & Pensioners of EPFO (Employees' Provident Fund Organisation) - Ministry of Labour and Employment, Govt. of India.

b) FMA for employees and Pensioners of EPFO had been revised every third year as many as 6 times between 1997 to 2013 from Rs. 120 from 1-1-97, Rs.150 from 14-3-2000, Rs.250 from 1-1-2003, Rs.600 from 1-1-2006 and Rs.1200 as FMA from 1-1-2009 and Rs.2000 from 1-3-2013 for day-to-day out-door medical treatment.

7. a) It was accepted by MoS (P&PW) in the Meeting of SCOVA (held on 20-9-2010) that the “amount of Rs.300 per month (as FMA) appears to be inadequate but the Government could not increase it further due to constraints of resources”.

b) Resources should not be allowed to come in the way of providing the requisite means for proper treatment in the old age of the frail and ailing Senior Citizens - suffering from numerous chronic and other day-to-day medical problems especially in view of the various judgments of various Courts - which have upheld the Responsibility of the Government towards health care of Pensioners – even if they are not members of CGHS / RELHS. (Ref: *Suraj Bhan vs Govt. of N.C.R. of Delhi & Others* dated 12 March, 2010).

8. Insurance Scheme can't cover day-to-treatment – as advised by MoH: Sixth Pay Commission had proposed introduction of Medical Insurance for the Central Government employees and Pensioners. But no Insurance scheme would cover the OPD or day-to-day “Domiciliary” treatment; and in case it is to be covered – the premium will be very high

8. Majority of the Pensioners don't have access to CGHS / RELHS facility: Majority of the Pensioners are residing in the non-CGHS / non-RELHS areas. They have to purchase medicines from the open market and pay for consultation for day-to-day treatment – cost of which is ever rising – much above the amount of FMA paid to those who have opted out of OPD facility – since residing away from the facilities provided under the said schemes.

9. It is, therefore, requested that:

a) Fixed Medical Allowance (FMA) to Pensioners and Family Pensioners (who opt out of OPD treatment under CGHS / RELHS – as *residing at a distance from the CGHS / RELHS facilities*) may please be enhanced to Rs.1200 PM from 1-1-2009 and Rs.2000 PM from 1-3-2013 for “Out Door Treatment” (*at par with EPFO and* In proportion to the average expenditure of Rs.2000 per head/pm on OPD Treatment in CGHS).

b) i) FMA may please be revised periodically (once every 3 years) to compensate for rise of cost of Medicines and treatment;

OR b) ii) DA be granted on the FMA to compensate for phenomenal rise of cost of Medicines and treatment.

Thanking you in anticipation, with kind regards,

Yours faithfully,



(Harchandan Singh),
Secretary General, RSCWS

Copy for information & favourable consideration to:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Finance (Expenditure), North Block, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, Ministry of Personnel, PG & Pension, 5th Floor, Sardar Patel Bhawan, New Delhi
3. Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi,
4. Director, Deptt. of Pension & Pensioners Welfare, Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market New Delhi

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation
(Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India)
No, HRM-8/V/12/1/2003/FMA/Vol-117/6160
Dated 13 JUN 2013

To,
All Addl. Central P F. Commissioner (Zones)
Director (NATRSS)
All RPFCs-In-Charge of the Region/ZTIs
RPFC (ASDL), Head Office
All Officer-in-charge of SROs

Sub.: Enhancement in the rate of used Medical Allowance from Rs. 1200/- to Rs. 2000/- p.m. w.e.f 01.03.2013, payable to the serving as well as retired employees of the EPFO for outdoor medical treatment - regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to convey the approval of the 76th Executive Committee, CBT, EPF held 25/02/2013 and Hon'ble Labour & Employment Minister, Government of India for enhancement of the Fixed Medical Allowance (FMA) for pensioners and employees of EPFO from Rs. 1200/- p.m. to Rs 2000/- p.m w.e.f. 1st March, 2013, subject to the following conditions :-

(i) The enhancement of fixed medical allowance will be available to serving employees and pensioners (including family pensioners) of the Employees Provident Fund Organization. The serving employees of the Organization who are in the Head Office at New Delhi and Regional/Sub Regional Office at Delhi and at stations which are covered by the Central Government Health Scheme will not be eligible for Fixed Medical Allowance. As soon as any employee is covered by Central Government Health Scheme, the fixed medical allowance admissible to him/her shall be stopped.

(ii) If two or more members of family are working in the EPF Organization, only one of them will be eligible for the facility of fixed medical allowance.

(iii) In the case of an employee whose wife/husband spouse is an employee of a Government or any other organization (including private firm/office) he/she will be required to give an undertaking that his/her spouse is not availing of medical facilities in case, If any granted by their respective employers.

(iv) The Fixed Medical Allowance will be in lieu of the medical facility available for outdoor treatment under the Central Services (Medical Attendance) Ruler 1944 as adopted by the FPF Organization for its own employees and pensioners.

(Authority: Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India letter no.G-25012/2/2011-SS-I dated 07.06.2013)

You faithfully,
sd/-
(V.N. SHARMA)
ADDL. CENTRAL P.F. COMMISSIONER (HR)