

RAILWAY SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE SOCIETY

(Estd. 1991, Regd. No. 1881 – Under Registration of Societies Act),
Website http://www.rscws.com; Quarterly Journal: "Pensioner's Rail Sampark"

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

FORMER MEMBER, SCOVA (STANDING COMMITTEE FOR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES)

No. 2025-05/RSCWS/CHD/Appeal/FM

Dated: 07.04.2025

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Ms. Nirmala Sitaraman, The Honorable Finance Minister of India South Block, Raisina Hills New Delhi – 110011

Subject: Request for Reconsideration and Withdrawal of Amendments to CCS (Pension) Rules via Finance Bill, 2025

Respected Madam,

We, the undersigned representatives of recognized pensioners' organization, wish to respectfully draw your attention to the recent amendment to the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, introduced as part of the Finance Bill, 2025.

This amendment, presented as a validation measure, introduces a retrospective change affecting pensioners governed by the erstwhile CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 (now superseded by the CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021). We believe that this change has the potential to create an unjust classification among pensioners based on their date of retirement.

Such differentiation appears to be in contravention of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's Constitution Bench judgment in D.S. Nakara & Others v. Union of India (17.12.1982), which held that pensioners form a homogeneous class and should not be subject to arbitrary classification. The amendment's retrospective effect, dating back to 1st June 1972, may also undermine judicial pronouncements and long-standing principles of equity and fairness.

Moreover, the method of introducing this significant policy change—via the Finance Bill—raises procedural concerns and may set an undesirable precedent. There is apprehension within the pensioner community that this approach might influence similar actions at the State Government level, impacting millions of retired employees.

We respectfully urge the Government to:

- 1. Reconsider and withdraw the said amendment in view of constitutional values and judicial precedents.
- 2. Initiate a broader consultative process involving stakeholders, particularly pensioners' associations, before effecting any policy changes impacting senior citizens

We remain committed to constructive engagement and hope for a resolution that upholds the dignity and rights of those who have served the nation with dedication.

With respectful regards,

Sincerely yours,

SAT PAL SINGH Secretary General