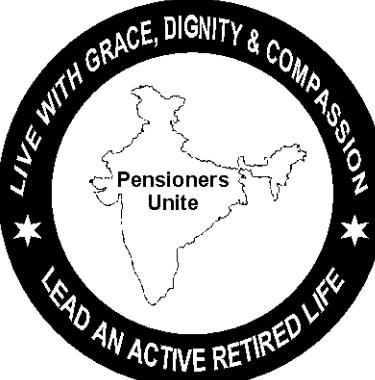


BHARAT PENSIONER

भारत पेन्शनर



OFFICIAL MONTHLY ORGAN OF THE BHARAT PENSIONERS SAMAJ, NEW DELHI - 110 014

(Federation of All India Pensioners' Associations)

(MEMBER, INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION ON AGEING, TORONTO, CANADA)

DIRECT SUCCESSOR TO "PENSIONER" ESTABLISHED IN 1955

MONSOON JOINT DHARNA POSTPONED

As you are all aware, it was decided by the Governing Council that Bharat Central Pensioners Confederation (BCPC), would in conjunction with (and the active participation) of serving Central Govt employees, led by the Confederation of Central Govt Employees & Workers (CCGE&W), hold a DHARNA @ Jantar Mantar, Parliament Street, New Delhi during the Monsoon Session of Parliament as our next step in the struggle for achieving the long-pending demands of Pensioners & Serving Employees.

We have discussed this matter with Com S K Vyas, who is Chairman of the CCGE&W. He informed that due to the ensuing strike of the Postal Employees wef 06.07.2011, it would not be possible for CCGE&W at this juncture to organize the serving Employees for participation in the proposed JOINT DHARNA in August, 2011 (Monsoon Session).

We have, therefore, no option but to postpone this PROGRAMME for the present.

When a new DATE for the JOINT DHARNA @ Parliament, during a subsequent session, is decided upon, all concerned shall be informed accordingly as decided in consultation with BCPC Chairman, S S Ramachandran (who is @ Mumbai today).

For the present, the JOINT DHARNA in August stands POSTPONED.

Bharat Central Pensioners Confederation Zindabad !

BCPC Zindabad !

Pensioners Unity Zindabad !

Employee - Pensioner Unity Zindabad !

BCPC Zindabad !

Pensioners Unity Zindabad !

Employee - Pensioner Unity Zindabad !

11.06.11

Shyam Sunder, Secy Genl
Bharat Central Pensioner Cconfederation (BCPC)

KIND ATTN : LIFE MEMBERS

Life (WL or L) members of BPS were requested to furnish their contact Tel/Mob No indicating their life membership No with a view to updating our records. The target date was indicated as 28.02.2011. Members were informed that their name would be deleted from our computerized Mailing List, starting with 04/2011 Issue. Several WL/L members have, it is **not** noticed, sent the requisite information even by 31.05.2011. Hence, there was no option for BPS but to delete their names from the said Mailing List. Accordingly, copy of BHARAT PENSIONER is not being mailed to them since 04/2011 in the case of those residing outside Delhi and wef 06/2011 in the case of Delhi residents.

You would kindly appreciate that it is not possible for us to contact them individually now. But, if the contact no (Tel/Mob) along with WL/L No is furnished to BPS even now, their names would be included again.

Rameshwar Kumar, Treasurer



AH ! SMT PREM BHATIA

We send our heartfelt condolences to Sh D P Bhatia, Prez, CGPA, Shimla, a veteran Pensioner Activist, who lost his beloved wife, Smt Prem Bhatia sometime back. Sh Bhatia has been associated with BHARAT PENSIONERS SAMAJ for a long time. He has donated ₹ 500/- to BPS in her sacred memory. THANX !

Shyam Sunder

LIKES AND DISLIKES

Never explain yourself to anyone because person who likes U doesn't need its And person who dislikes U won't believe it. R K Sarin, President, Sightless Persons Society, New Delhi

From the Official **Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the NAC** held on 15th Feb 2011 Item No 38: *Anomaly in fixation of Grade Pay:*

The Staff Side stated that the general recommendation of the 6m CPC was that the grade pay will be 40% of the maximum of the pre-revised pay scales.

However, at the time of implementation of the recommendations of the 6th CPC, Government has given more than 40% as Grade Pay to certain categories of the employees in PB-3 and PB-4. Therefore, it was an anomaly and demanded that everyone should be given Grade Pay of at least 50% of the maximum of the pre revised pay scales.

The Official Side stated that the 6th CPC itself recommended grade pay in excess of 40% of the maximum of the pre-revised pay scales in respect of certain employees. Further, in Para 2.2.21 of the report of the 6th CPC, it has been clearly stated that in some cases, the amount of the Grade Pay has been adjusted so as to maintain a clear differential between successive grades pay. Thereafter, the government implemented the recommendations of the 6th CPC with certain conscious modifications in the Grade Pay in some cases. Moreover, the erstwhile Group D employees have also been granted Grade Pay exceeding 40% of the maximum of the pre-revised pay scales. Therefore, there is no anomaly in the matter.

It was decided that the Staff Side would revisit the issue and revert on whether they wish to pursue the matter.

Item No. 39: *Anomaly due to not applying uniformly the multiplication factor of 1.86 in fixing the minimum pay in all the revised pay bands.*

It was noted that this item is similar to the agenda item number 38 i.e. anomaly in fixation of grade pay. It was decided that the Staff Side would revisit the issue and revert on the matter.

RECALL : AIRF version was published earlier in BP - 03/2011 - p.19)

NAC FLASH : *The term of the National Anomaly Committee expired on 31.03.2011. The Govt, in the Deptt of Personnel & Trg has since agreed to its extension upto 30.09.2011 or till the agenda is completed whichever is earlier.* **Editor : BP**

BHARAT PENSIONERS SAMAJ, NEW DELHI

(Federation of All India Pensioners' Associations)

MEMBER, INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION ON AGEING, TORONTO, CANADA

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(For any reply, a stamped ₹ 5 envelope must)

BHARAT PENSIONERS SAMAJ ON INTERNET

Now BPS has following addresses on internet; you are welcome to visit & to participate in discussions etc.

Websites : <http://www.bharatpensioner.org>

<http://www.karmayog.org/ngo/BPSamaj/>,

Blog : <http://scm-bps.blogspot.com>

Yahoo Group : <http://in.groups.yahoo.com/group/BPS1955>

Group e.mail: BPS1955@yahoo-groups.co.in

facebook page : <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bharat-Pensioners-Samaj/102839993142554>

Survey of Pensioners Associations

HARK ! Hark ! BOGUS CLAIMS UNTENABLE !

Dear sir, SURVEY REVEALS : NO SOLE LEADER OF PENSIONERS Following Survey report is for your perusal & favour of publication please.

A survey conducted by RREWA over the past one year i.e April 2010 to March 2011 reveals :

1. That out of 12 lakhs of Pensioners/Family Pensioners only 2.40 lakhs (including ex-officers) have joined one or the other Association with heavy incidence of multiple membership i.e a single person joining more than one Association. Similarly, Retired Railway officers too have multiple memberships.

2. There are 350 Rly Pensioners Associations with independent Registration. Quite a number of C.G. Pensioners Associations includes Railway Pensioners also. Majority of Associations are with membership less than 100 to 500; only few Associations are with membership of 1000 or more. There are only four worth mentioning Retired Rly Officers Associations, here again along with membership in Retired officers Associations, quite an appreciable number have joined other Associations also.

3. Among Associations too there is incidence of multiple affiliations i.e affiliation with more than one(upto three) Confederation / Federation.

Conclusion : No single Confederation/Federation can claim to be the sole leader of Rly Pensioners. It is undoubtedly a mixed bag.

Study Data : AIRROA Secunderabad, AIRRF Secunderabad, NFRP Palghat , AICCPA N.Delhi, Bharat Pensioners Samaj N.Delhi, All India Federation of Pensioners Associations Chennai, AIOP, Kanpur. E.Rly ROA Kolkatta, S30 PA & S29PA N.D. OP Kumar Prez RREWA Gurgaon

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CGPA (Kerala State) BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 27-28.5.2011

Speech delivered by Shyam Sunder
in the SEMINAR on NEW PENSION SCHEME held at Town Hall, Palakkad (Kerala) organised by CGPA (Kerala State) on 27.05.2011.

The pernicious New Pension Scheme (NPS) was introduced wef 1.1.2004 by the NDA Govt headed by the then Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee. In December, 2003 it was hurriedly introduced by that Govt which was led by the Bhartiya Janata Party almost at the end of their 5 - year tenure when they were under their "Shining India" illusions. Though the "Shakers" were the Govt of India in New Delhi, the "Movers" were sitting in Washington (USA) led by the IMF & World Bank.

There was hardly any justification for this anti-employee and anti-pensioner new scheme, known as New Pension Scheme. Its compulsory implementation in respect of a section of Govt servants on or after 1.1.2004 was not only unwarranted but also totally illegal. The Parliament was not taken into confidence when all of a sudden it was imposed, by means of a Govt fiat in the form of a Gazette Notification.

The draconian measure was implemented in pursuance of the so-called neo-liberal reforms. The BJP-led NDA said that they were only following and taking forward these economic reforms which had been initiated by an earlier Congress Govt of Prime Minister, P V Narasimha Rao and the then Finance Minister, Man Mohan Singh in 1991. Later on, it was also pleaded that there was a compulsion to introduce these reforms since the State Govts were being burdened with huge pension burdens as a result of the 5th Central Pay Commission recommendations.

Comrades, you would recall that at the time of the implementation of 5th CPC recommendations in 1997, the then Finance Minister in the United Front Govt of I K Gujral, **Shri P Chidambaram** refused to implement them, as candidly admitted by him personally in the Hindustan Times Summit Conclave at New Delhi in July, 2005 and who wilfully ran away to

Chennai with a view to shirking his responsibility with regard to the 5th CPC recommendations. This necessitated the appointment of Com Indra Jeet Gupta, the then Home Minister as head of Group of Ministers (GoM) to implement these recommendations. Com Gupta, not only took the Federations of Central Govt Employees & Pensioners into confidence but also even improved the implementation, after consultations with them; this meant not only acceptance of the fitment formula but also improving and raising it from 20% to 40% And the rest is history. No State Govt in India has gone bankrupt as a result of implementation of the 5th CPC or even the latest 6th CPC.

Now, let us come to the present. On the crest of the anger against the anti-people policies of the NDA Govt, the UPA-I Govt led by the Congress came to power in 2004. But this Govt too, with Man Mohan Singh as the Prime Minister and P Chidambaram as the Finance Minister, true to their class character, refused to scrap the New Pension Scheme.

It appears to me that the Trade Union movement in the Country (and the Pensioners support thereo) had not been strong enough to force the Govt to withdraw the Scheme, especially when the Govt's survival was dependent, atleast upto July, 2008, upon the crucial left front support of 61 votes. Under UPA-II, the new Finance Minister, Pranab Mukherji, was able, with the BJP support, to get even the PERDA Bill admitted by the Lok Sabha in March this year.

Let it be understood by all and sundry that the pensioners are totally opposed to the New Pension Scheme and the PFRDA Bill. The PFRDA Bill, when it is passed into a law, shall open the legal gates for implementation of the New Pension Scheme on a tremendously high scale.

Comrades ! As all of you are aware, the time-tested traditional Pension Scheme recognises and ensures 50% of last pay drawn (LPD) as a statutory obligation and a Fundamental Right to Property, as already recognized by the Supreme Court of India. The New Pension Scheme requires employees to contribute to a fund and to earn a pension through investment in equities with no

guarantee for statutory pension @ 50% of LPD. This is an illegal move foisted upon new entrants to Govt service (after 2003) which is ultra vires of the Fundamental Right to property as enshrined in the Constitution. It has rendered this social security in old age contingent upon market forces which may be ending in negation of a secured statutory pension. Whereas the old Pension Scheme is "defined benefits law", the New Pension Scheme is "defined contribution system".

In the possibly meantime, BCPC is organising a March to Parliament @ Jantar Mantar, New Delhi during the Monsoon Session of Parliament in August this year at a date to be mutually decided in consultation with and participation of serving employees led by the Confederation of C G Employees & Workers (with Com S K Vyas as Chairman & Com K N K Kutty as Secy Genl) and others.

With a view to boosting the new Pension Scheme, the Govt, it appears, is bringing in legislation to bring the unorganised sections of working class into the orbit of a similar contribution-defined Pension Scheme. The pensioners welcome the introduction of a better social security scheme for the unorganised working class. In my humble view, it would be appropriate at this stage to have wider discussions in this regard with all the major Trade Unions, like AITUC, CITU, INTUC, UTUC, BMS, TUCC and others. Only then we can chalk out a practical plan to get rid of this anti-employee, anti-pensioner scheme.

Pensioners Unity Zindabad !

Employee - Pensioner Unity Zindabad !

Bharat Central Pensioners Confederation
Zindabad ! BCPC Zindabad !

Com S K Vyas, Advisor, BCPC & Secy Genl, NCCPA, also delivered his contribution to the Seminar and Distt leaders of AITUC & BMS alongwith some others took part in the deliberations of the Seminar.

The Open Session on the next day, 28.05.11 was inaugurated by ex-Chief Minister & now Leader of the Opposition, Com Achutanandan, Shyam Sunder addressed the Open Session detailing & explaining the problems and demands of Central Govt pensioners. He gave a call for a

big participation of CGPA, Kerala in the proposed MARCH/DHARNA @ Jantar Mantar, New Delhi during the ensuing Monsoon Session at a date to be announced soon in consultation with the CCGE&W. Com S K Vyas and many leaders of the state level C G Trade Unions like BSNL also spoke on this occasion.

MPs VISIT WELLNESS CENTRE

Standing Committee of Members of Parliament consisting of 8 Lok Sabha, 5 Rajya Sabha MPs and nearly 15 Govt officials recently visited Wellness Centre, CGHS, Pusa Road, New Delhi with a view to seeing the overall functioning of the Centre. "They left on a happy note from their visit to the dispensary" said Dr (Smt) Savita Khanna, CMO (incharge). V K Taneja, representing Residents Welfare Association and also as Secretary (PR), BPS is of the view that such like visits by the Honourable MPs should take place at least once in a year so that functioning of dispensaries can be further improved.

V K Taneja, Secy (PR), BPS

Bangalore Metro rail



The commercial operations of Namma Metro between Ballyappanahalli to MG Road commenced on 04.04.11. The foundation stone for the Phase-1 construction was laid by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2006 and construction on the line commenced in 2007. The 7-km long stretch has six stations : Byiappanahalli, SV Road, CMH Road, Ulsoor, Trinity Circle, MG Road.

PMES

(Performance Monitoring & Evaluation system
for affiliated associations of BPS)
Questionnaire

S.No	Question	Answer
1	Name of Pensioners Association	
2	Is it registered ? If yes, give registration No & date	
3	(a)Phone/Mobile No (Give STD code also) (b) the Name of Contact person with designation in the Association	
4	Fax No	
5.	E-mail	
6.	Do you have a website? If yes, give address	
7	Publication/Journal etc (Name)	
8.	Whether monthly/quarterly/annual ?	
9.	Premises (Whether (a) owned ? (b) hired or ? (c) wkg from some one's residence ?	

2011 AWARDS

June 2011

10	Infrastructural details like, computer hardware/software/ internet connectivity/staff etc
11	MOA & Rules (attach copy)
12	Source of funding (a) Admission fee (b) Life Membership fee (c) Annual Membership fee (d) Grant-in-aid
13	Total Membership (i) Life (ii) Annual (iii) Total
14	Amount of Membership subscription (i) Life (ii) Annual
15	Accounts (attach latest copy of statement of accounts)
16	Attach activity report for the year 2010-2011
17	Any other information you wish to provide

President

General Secretary

Note:- *If you don't have E-mail address, kindly create one. It does not cost anything and hardly takes an hour to learn to operate. You can seek assistance of your children / grandchildren /a friend or may go to a nearby Cybercafe to operate it. It will enable us to serve you better & keep you updated.*

PERFORM OR PERISH

BHARAT PENSIONERS SAMAJ

For better service to Pensioners : Self-evaluation to improve & strengthen BPS

Friends, As you are aware PMES (Performance Monitoring & Evaluation System) was introduced w.e.f Mach 2010, where in a scheme of performance based rewards was introduced for BPS affiliated Associations. Earlier, S P Vatta Memorial Trophy + Award of ₹ 5,000 instituted by the Vatta Family was being awarded.

This year too at the time of AGM in the Month of Nov 2011, the following performance based awards will be announced & distributed:

1. S P Vatta Memorial Trophy & Citation.	2. Rs 5000/- cash plus Citation.
3. Rs 3000/- cash plus Citation	4. Rs 2000/- cash plus Citation

Affiliated Associations are, therefore, requested to submit their performance report on the following proforma latest by 30th of August 2011 Shyam Sunder, Secy General

GUIDELINES FOR FILING INCOME TAX RETURN

1. TDS - Tax Deducted at Source. Form : 15-H for Senior Citizen.

While presenting the Budget on 28.02.2011 Finance Minister has announced that an individual becomes Senior Citizen the day he attains 60 years of age. This is a very significant change, because now every pensioner is a Sr Citizen, and is eligible to avail all the benefits. The **No Tax Liability** for Sr. Citizen has been raised to Rs. 2,50,000/- for the income of Financial year 2011-12 (for the Financial year 2010-11, it is Rs. 2,40,000/-). Thus the pensioner whose income, after permissible deduction, is not exceeding Rs. 2,50,000/-, may not have to pay any income tax.

Secondly the Banks deduct the Tax @ 10% of the income, from interest payable, from **same branch**, exceeds Rs. 10,000/- for the year. The TDS can be avoided if a declaration in form 15H is given by the individual. This declaration is to be given in duplicate, acknowledgment taken and kept on record for future reference. It is required to be given **every year** in the month of April - May, if no Income Tax is payable for the income receivable in the financial year 2011-12.

The declaration is to be given on oath and if it proves wrong, the offence is punishable under rules. Even if, the declaration is not given, and the TDS is recovered, the same can be claimed as refund by filing Income Tax Return.

2. IT Return Form for A.Y. 2011-12 :

New UR-I form named 'SAHAJ' is notified by
BHARAT PENSIONER

the Income Tax Deptt for filing the Return for the Income of F.Y. 2010-11, i.e. Assessment year 2011-12. The form is available on Web-site and is coloured one. There is not much difference in the form referred to earlier by us and the one introduced now, except that the column numbers are given new. **The form is to be used by individual who has income from Salary / Pension, interest etc. and are owning one house only.** The details of income, and of deduction under 80-C are not required to be given, but only figures are to be indicated against the relevant column.

The last date for filing return is 31.07.2011, unless it is extended. No enclosure to the Return form are allowed. However each individual should keep, full details of the figure shown in the Return, for future reference, if any.

We should enjoy filing the return, because while doing this exercise, we take account of our income and investment afresh and we get an opportunity to remedy the omission and irregularities. Some of our friends get chance to go abroad. At times, before giving VISA the Embassies ask for copy of the Income Tax Return and it becomes very helpful then.

Over the years the Income Tax limits have been raised and Income Tax Rates reduced and hence we should respond to the Govt approach by paying the Income Tax Due well in time.

Tel - 020-2543 3900 S.K. Deshpande
10.05.2011 AICG Pensioners Assn
1785 Sadashiv Peth, Pune - 411 030.

WB : How Didi brought the WINDS OF CHANGE

by HT Correspondent

A woman created history in Bengal. She demolished a regimented super force and single handedly steered her party to victory. She did not have any god father to back her or a strong political party to provide her the necessary impetus. Yet, she achieved a unique feat.

There were times when the relevance of Mamata Banerjee seemed eroding fast in Bengal's political horizon. She switched sides and formed a half hearted alliance with the Congress in the 2001 assembly elections. Her "Keshpur line" bombed in the ballot boxes and the party was in serious trouble. The 2004 Lok Sabha polls and 2006 Assembly elections witnessed the national party reduced to one MP and in 2006 Assembly elections, her strength in the Assembly was reduced to half. The party was in crisis.

But the CPI(M) had always come to her rescue. After her defeat in the 1989 Lok Sabha polls, she was slowly marginalized in the Congress as well as Bengal politics. Just a year after CPI(M) hooligans struck her with iron rods and made a hero out of her. People were seen crying for her recovery outside the south Kolkata nursing home. She made a point - she was the only force that made the ruling party jittery.

In political crisis once again after the disastrous Assembly poll results, help came from the Marxists in a different way soon after the States Government went ahead with the Nano project of the Tatas. Caught in the web of allegations of forcible land acquisition and falsehoods about the character of the fertile land, the State Government made one mistake after another in spite of all the good intentions to invite big industrial houses to the state. The former Chief Minister ignored the movement that was slowly gaining ground in the villages of Singur. Her fast for three weeks ignoring the winter's chill shook the administration and the same head of government had to write to her withdraw agitation. If the administration felt that the crisis was over, trouble brewed at Nandigram over land acquisition once again and the death of innocent villagers put the state in the boiling mode.

Mamata was quick to pick up the Nandigram cause and took the agitations to a feverish pitch. The rest is history and a saga of the state's unconditional succumbing to Mamata's politics. Agitations in Nandigram and Singur attained iconic status and posed a serious debate nationwide about the issue of land acquisition vis a vis the farmers' interests.

Mamata was the principal protagonist who raised a stream of relevant valid questions before the country: land acquisition for whose sake, farmers or the industry ? What is the relevance of the Act that dates back to the British rule? If land had to be acquired, will it be a fertile one ? How far should the State play a land broker? Industry at the cost of agriculture?

A new messiah of the farmers had arrived who could defeat the all powerful LF Govt fighting for the rights of the peasants. The spirit of the "agitation in Singur and Nandigram spread like wild fire in the villages across India. Uprisings marked various attempts to acquire land and governments dithered on the face of stiff opposition of farmers.

In Bengal there was a complete reversal of roles. The Left, whose backbone was the might of support of the farming community, was at a loss discovering the new spokesperson of their vote bank. In the traditional rural bases of the red brigade, the chinks were showing nakedly and the 2008 Panchayat elections pointed the glaring discontent against the Left Front. A clueless left leaders called her names and made her the key player in the state's political theatre. The urban middle and upper class were angry at the histrionics of the Lady of a Kalighat. Corporates and Chambers of Commerce vented their ire against Mamta.

Allegations were heaped against her she was cutting job opportunities. She was blocking development. She was antindustry. Mamata could not care less. The vast multitude of farmers were by her side. They decided the fortunes of political parties and their leaders. In her rallies she spewed venom against the media that criticized her. But that's part of her frenzied theatrics. There was no stopping after the victories of Panchayat elections of 2008. The next year, she overwhelmed the left with her bagging of as many as 19 seats in the Lok Sabha polls. In 2010, she snatched the Kolkata Municipal Corporation from the Left. In 2011, she made history. *Courtesy : HT, New Delhi*

WHITHER LEFT?

*It would be best for CPI and CPI(M) to unite.
Just a thought*

by Sugata Srinivasaraju

The Mamata sweep in West Bengal, the defeat in Kerala, another bastion, the backdrop of the debacle in the 2009 general elections—all this has added to the general apprehension that the space occupied by the Left parties may be shrinking. Communist veterans like A.B. Bardhan of the CPI and Somnath Chatterjee of the CPI(M) have spoken about this with quite some pain. ***"My agony is that the Left parties are becoming more and more irrelevant,"*** Somnath told OUTLOOK. Bardhan, on his part, warns the Left and its leaders to ***"either change or be out."***

It's in the light of this decay of the Left that it is being asked if a reunification of the major Left parties, the CPI and the CPI(M), could stem the rot. Commentators wonder if such a reunion might make a difference to the fate of the Left, given that the historical reasons for the split in 1964 no longer apply and are no longer relevant.

The 1964 split in the Communist movement was caused by differences over the characterisation of the Indian State and over alignment with China and the erstwhile Soviet Union. One section argued that in order to keep the extreme right and right reactionaries out, a *"national democratic revolution"* was called for. In real terms, this meant the Left should join hands with democratic forces like the Congress. Another dreamt instead of a *"people's democratic revolution"*. The Communist movement was also divided into pro-Soviet and pro-China groups. When the differences began to be seen as irreconcilable, the CPI(M) was formed. The Naxals of the late 1960s and early 1970s—forerunners to the Maoists of today—went with the CPI(M), calling the CPI *"revisionist"*. But they very soon set up their own Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist).

But the point is, none of these original differences are relevant in 2011: the Soviet bloc has collapsed; the Indian State has changed—at least a little—to become accommodative of a

- Introspect to see if failure is organisational or at the leadership level
- Relook assessment of political priorities in a fast-changing India
- With Left space shrinking, examine possibility of a CPI-CPI (M) merger
- Walk the talk: be more responsive to people and society than to dogma
- Rein in thuggish cadres.

Bring back leaders who have quit the party

- Keep the middle class in mind in an India moving from being a welfare state Half-together? Left leaders are united on many fronts

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range of opinion; and, most importantly, Corporate interests have grown to the detriment of the poor, creating for the Left a new arena of relevance. The CPI(M) even made a departure from its historical position to support the UPA Government in 2004 to keep out *"communal elements"*. When such an exception can be made, why should the burden of history prevent a reunification?

"Our party has always been willing for a merger, but the response hasn't been positive enough from the other side," says S. Sudhakar Reddy, Dy Genl Secy of the CPI. *"We don't want to blame the CPI(M), but as the bigger party, it should realise the importance of Left unity. In the last two decades, we have come together on many issues. We have agreed on more issues than we have differed on."* And D. Raja, CPI National Secretary, points out that in 1993, his party even updated the preamble of its constitution to suit the changing times, but the CPI(M) still holds on to its earlier ideological position. *"India is moving from being a welfare state to a neoliberal state and many of our earlier assessments are no longer relevant,"* he says, and, recalling the time when Inderjit Gupta headed the CPI and Harkisben Singh Surjeet the CPI(M), adds that there was a joint circular issued to establish coordination between the parties. *"It was just short of a merger."*

But S. Ramachandran Pillai, a CPI(M) Politburo member, still holds there are differences, at the

philosophical, organisational and political levels. “*If reunification has to happen, these have to be settled first. On basic ideological issues, we have grave differences, our tactics and strategies differ. On all immediate political issues, however, we are together,*” he says. “*If you ask whether a merger is possible, the answer is ‘yes’. But it may not happen. There are many historical reasons.*”

Somnath Chatterjee was initially hesitant to comment on his former party, the CPI(M), but opened up later. “*The space occupied by the Left is shrinking. It is time for some change. One is not sure if the failure of the CPI(M) is at the organisational or the governance level, but there is certainly a growing distance between the people and the party. There is a smugness in the leadership. There is arrogance. Reunification of the two Left parties per se may not bring about any change. Whether they unite or not they should remain close to the people,*” he says.

Dr Siddanagouda Patil, State Secy of the CPI's Karnataka unit, says one of the major hurdles is how the trade unions of the two parties—though they do engage in joint activities—will take it. Both sides admit that their trade unions have entrenched interests and the relationship between them is not exactly cordial. The CPI's AITUC has far more members than the CPI(M)'s CTU. Should a merger be considered, the nittygritty of reorganising the assets and office-bearers of both sides will have to be sorted out. “*At different points, we have tried to discuss unification of our kisan sabhas, trade unions, electricity board workers' unions,*” says Raja. “*We've even discussed the formation of federations, but for various reasons, it hasn't worked out.*”

Leaders of both parties, however, concede there are major advantages to coming together, not least for the creation of a larger political base. “*In terms of arithmetic, one plus one is two,*” says Raja. “*But in politics, it's much more.*” The CPI(M) has a presence in West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura, while the CPI has a scattered presence in many States. “*We can aspire to be a major opposition party in States like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu,*” says Patil. “*We can also make a dent in States like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, where we have had a decent presence in the past.*” Some workers and office-bearers believe a

reunification could bring about greater impact in Orissa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Delhi, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The work of the mass outreach organisations of the two parties, they say, could create a political force in these States.

Another challenge before the Communists is whether they should become Social Democrats, adapting to the broader Indian political climate. But the CPI(M) has an entrenched position on this: in its political education classes, anyway, the CPI(M) ridicules the CPI as a “*Social Democratic Party*”. There's strong resistance to such an ideological transformation on both sides.

And if confirmation of resistance to a possible merger were needed, one need go no further than the different responses of Bardhan and Brinda Karat of the CPI(M) to the present crisis in the Left. Bardhan wants the Left to connect with and become relevant to groups such as the emerging and aspirational middle class and the youth; Brinda says a review of mistakes will definitely take place, but, foreclosing any possibility of major change, adds that it won't lead to the kind of “reformed” Left its critics root for.

The views expressed by the author are personal.
Courtesy : OUTLOOK, New Delhi - 110 029

61 % want PM under Lokpal purview : Poll

SURVEY REPORT : “While the United Progressive Alliance ties itself up in knots, two out of every three Indians say the Prime Minister and the higher judiciary should be brought under the purview of the Lokpal, an issue that has seen the UPA government differing with civil society representatives.”

This is the main finding of an opinion poll conducted for OUTLOOK magazine by Marketing & Development Research Associates in five cities—Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai—on June 1 and 2.

LOKPAL : DELAY IN NOD FOR INCLUSION OF PM ? Then why the delay for giving the nod for inclusion of PM and others (including the judiciaries) under Lokpal purview which will smoothen the drafting of Jan Lokpal Bill by the Expert Committee consisting eminent personalities from Civil & Govt side.

Courtesy : T K DAMODARAN
BHARAT PENSIONER

एक समन्वयवादी कवि

जन्मशति

शमशेर बहादुर सिंह

— गोविन्दसिंह असिवाल

2011, भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप के सात प्रथ्यात कवियों का जन्मशती वर्ष है। वे हैं — फैज अहमद 'फैज' (पाकिस्तान—उर्दू), अज्ञेय, शमशेर बहादुर सिंह, नागार्जुन, श्री श्री (तेलेगु), मजाज लखनवी, केदारनाथ अग्रवाल। शमशेर बहादुर सिंह का जन्म 13 जनवरी 1911 में देहरादून निवासी एक संप्रात जाट परिवार में हुआ। उन्होंने 1928 में हाईस्कूल पास किया और 1938 में एम.ए. पूर्वांक्ष करके छोड़ दिया। 1939 में "रूपाभ" के सहायक सम्पादक बने। 1940 में "कहानी" के, 1948 से 1954 तक नया साहित्य में रहे, फिर "मनोहर कहानियाँ" का सम्पादन किया। उनका सबसे महत्वपूर्ण कार्य है दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय की मदद से "उर्दू—हिन्दी कोष" का सम्पादन (1965 से 1977) और विक्रम विश्वविद्यालय उज्जैन के प्रेमचन्द के सूजनपीठ की अध्यक्षता (1981—85)। शमशेर की प्रकाशित रचनाओं में हैं—कुछ कविताएं (1959), कुछ और कविताएं (1961), चुका भी नहीं हूँ मैं (1975), इतने पास अपने (1980), उदिता—अभिव्यक्ति का संघर्ष (1980), बात बोलेगी (1981), और काल तुझसे होड़ है मेरी (1988)।

शमशेर जी ने आज के बाजारवाद की मूल्यहीन धमाचौकड़ी का आंकलन वर्षों पहले कर लिया था। उनका कटाक्ष सटीक है—“इल्म—ओ—हिमकत, दीन—ओ—ईमां, मुल्क—ओ—दौलत, हुस्न—ओ—इश्क, आपको बाजार से जो चाहिए, ला देता हूँ मैं।” इसके ही समानान्तर एक ग्रीब मज़दूर के दर्द को भी देखिये—“मुझे वो इस तरह निचोड़ता है जैसे, पानी में, एक—एक बीज को कसकर दबाकर, पेरा जाता है।”

आपात्काल में जब दिल्ली के तुर्कमान गेट पर तोड़फोड़ कर तबाही मचायी गई थी तब उस बर्बर बुल्डोज़री हमले को शमशेर जी ने मन की गहराईयों से शालीनता से उजागर किया—“ओस टपकी है कैसी / ज़हर—आलूद / ज़ख्म—ता—ज़ख्म / बाग है जमूद / जो भी गुंचा खिला / वो ज़ख्मी था।”

वे उर्दू और हिन्दी के किलष्ट शब्दों का भी प्रयोग करते थे। वे प्रमुख प्रगतिशील कवि मुक्तिबोध के साथी थे, इसलिए मुक्तिबोध जैसे कहीं—कहीं विलष्ट भी थे। उनका

A Poet of Conciliation

Birth Centenary

SHAMSHER BAHADUR SINGHby Govind Singh Asiwal,
ex - Vice Prez (West Zone) &
Member, MC, BPS @ Bhopal

Now 2011 is the Centenary Year of 7famous poets of the sub-continent. They are : Faiz Ahmed 'Faiz' (Pakistan - Urdu), Agyeya (Hindi), SHAMSHER BHADUR SINGH (H), Nagarjuna (H), Sri Sri (Tamil), Majaz Lucknowi (U) & Kedan Nath Agrawal (H). SHAMSHER BAHADUR SINGH was born on 13 Jan, 1911 in a well-to-do Jat family in Dehra Dun. He passed High School in 1928 and MA (Previous) in 1938.

Worked as Asstt Editor of RUPABH in 1939. Joined KAHANI in 1940, in NAYA SAHITYA from 1948-1954. Then edited MANOHAR KAHANIYAN. His most important work is, with the support of Delhi University, editing URDU-HINDI Dictionary. (1965-1977) and then joined Vikram University, Ujjain as Head of Deptt "PREM CHAND STUDIES" (1981-1985).

His main published works are :- Some Poems (1959), Some More Poems (1961) I'm not gone (1975), So Close to me (1980) Battles of Identity (1980) The Talk would Walk (1981) and TIME IN COMPETITION WITH ME (1988).

Long long ago Shamsherji had already made an appraisal of today's valueless & worthless commodity products on account of their of commercialisation. His meaningful:- “Knowledge & Wisdom, Religion & Belief, Nation is your choice from the Market, is with me aplenty and ofcourse on offer to you.” And parallel to this, see his portrayal of the pain of a poor worker :- He twists me dry as During the Emergency when there was the disastrous destruction @ Turkman Gate, the bulldozer attack produced the following reaction from the depts of his heart :-

What dew drops there / positionour / from wound to around / stagnation in the garden which ever buds opened it was completely full of wounds. He was also fond of using difficult vocabulary both of Hindi & Urdu. He was a comrade of the prominent progressive poet, Mukti Bodh; hence he too was prone to be jargonistic at times. He had however, a complete command over both the

दोनों भाषाओं पर पूर्ण कमाण्ड था। उन्हें जितना हिन्दी वाले चाहते हैं उतने ही उर्दू अदब वाले चाहते हैं। शमशेर जी का खुद कहना है— “मैं उर्दू और हिन्दी का दो—आब हूँ। मैं वह आईना हूँ जिसमें आप हैं।”

12 जनवरी 1944 के बिरला मज़दूरों के दमन—गोलियों, लाठियों, प्रहर से द्रवित होकर शमशेर जी ने लिखा— “कराहती धरा / की हाय मय विषाक्त वायु / धूमतिक्त आग / रिक्त आज / सोखती हृदय / गवालियर के मज़दूर का” और आगे “ग्रीष्म के हृदय / टंगे हुए / लिए हुए निशान / कि रोटियाँ / लाल—लाल / जा रहे / कि चल रहा / लहू भरे गवालियर के बाजार में जुलूस / चल रहा धुंआ—धुंआ / गवालियर के मज़दूर का हृदय।”

शमशेर जी चित्रकार भी थे। वे पिकासो से प्रभावित थे। रंगों की गहराई, प्रकृति, प्रवृत्ति, भव्यता और प्रभाव को वे जानते थे। सांवला, सुनहला, नीला सुरमई रंग उन्हें बेहद पसंद थे। ये रंग उनकी कविताओं में क्या खूब उभरे हैं। पेश हैं कुछ चित्र :—

01. “मैं निगाह बन गया स्वयं / जिसमें तुम आज गयी / अपना सुरमई सांवलापन।”
02. “शाम का बहता हुआ दरिया कहाँ ठहरा / सांवली पलकें नशीली / नींद में जैसे झूमें / चांदनी से भरी बदलियाँ हैं।”
03. “पूरा आसमान का आसमान है। एक इन्द्रधनुषी ताल / नीला सांवला हल्का गुलाबी।”
04. मात्र एक तीन पंक्तियों की कविता है— “चिकनी चाँदी सी वह / धूप में गीली लेटी है / हंसती सी।”

जिस प्रकार राहुल सांकृत्यायन ने “वोल्ना से गंगा” लिखकर संस्कृति, सम्भवा, इतिहास के विकास का अद्भुत चित्र खींचा, उसी गाथा को शमशेर लिखते हैं— “मैं काशी में आर्यों का शंखनाद सुनता हूँ / जो वोल्ना से आए।”

शमशेर जी की एक तनाव मुक्त करने वाली चुटकी को देखिये— “दादा की गोद में पोता / महबूबा

languages. He was as much loved by Hindi enthusiasts as by those from the Urdu literary tradition. “I am the confluence of Urdu & Hindi; I am the mirror in which you are reflected”, he would often say.

Being deeply hurt by the events of 12th January, 1944 when repression in the form of lathies (sticks) and gun shots was let loose on the innocent Birla Mill workers agitating for their daily bread (Rotis), he exclaimed :- “The wailing land / The crying poisoned air / fire / today / Killing the heart / of the Gwalior worker”, and further, “The hearts of the poor / Hanging in the air / Carrying the banners / Of Rotis / Breeding Red (colour) / Moving forward / Keep on walking / In the bleeding Gwalior bazar procession / Moving along the smoke / The heart of the Gwalior workers”.

Shamsher was painter too. He was greatly influenced by Picasso. He was familiar with the depth of colours, their nature, flow, grandeur and effect. The black, the golden, the blue and the grey colours were very dear to him. What grand spectacle have these colours raised in his poetry. Here are some portrayals:-

01. I was transformed into a roving eye / In which you poured in (like *Kajal*) / Your grey black colour”
02. “Where does the flowing evening stream stop ? / Black intoxicated eyebrows / As if swinging in sleep / Clouds filled up with moonlight!”
03. “The sky is the full sky / A rain bow pond / Blue, Black, Light Rosy”.
04. See this one - a three - lined poem: “The buttered silver like (beloved) / The one soaked in the Sun / lies as if with a laughter.”

Just as Rahul Sankrityayan produced a grand picture of culture, civilization, history and development by writing “**Volga to Ganga**”, we hear Shamsher reciting the same story thus:- “I listen to the conch-cry of the Aryans / who came down from the Volga country”.

Now see a stress - relieving tip of Shamsher: Grandson in the lap of Grandfather / Singing (shouting) My Love ! My Love ! / Grand mother nodding with her head / In which Age have we arrived !”

Finally read his poem “The Song of Peace” portraying the grand conciliation of Indian,

महबूबा गाये / दादी बैठी मूँड हिलाए / हम किस युग में आ गये।"

भारत, रूस, यूरोप, अमेरिका, लैटिन अमेरिका के साहित्य और साहित्यकारों का अद्भुत समनव्य उनकी कविता "अमन का राग" पढ़िये:-

"आज मैंने गोर्की को होरी के आंगन में देखा / और ताज के साथ में राजर्षि कुंग को पाया / लिंकन के हाथ में हाथ दिये हुए / और तालस्ताय मेरे देहाती यूपियन (UP-ian) होठों से बोल उठा / और अरागों की आँख में नया इतिहास / मेरे दिल की कहानी की सुर्खी / बन गया मैं जोश की वह मस्ती हूँ / जो नरुदा की भवों से जाम की तरह टकराती है / वह मेरा नरुदा जो दुनिया के शांति पोस्ट ऑफिस का प्यारा और सच्चा कासिद / वह मेरा जोश कि दुनिया का मस्त आशिक / मैं पंत के कुमार छायावादी सावन-भादों की चोट हूँ / हिलोरें लेते हर्ष पर मैं निराला के राम का आंसू / जो तीसरे महायुद्ध के कठिन लौह पदों को / एटमी सूई सा पार कर गया पाताल तक / और वहीं उसको रोक दिया मैं सिर्फ / एक महान विजय का इंदीवर जनता की आँख में / जो शांति की पवित्रतम आत्मा है।"

शमशेर जी की काल को चुनौती है—
"काल / तुमसे होड़ है मेरी अपराजित तू /
तुझमें अपराजित मैं वास करू।"

शमशेर जी भाषा रूपाकार है। उन्होंने हिन्दी में नई वृत्ति की शुरुआत की, कविता का ऐसा संयोजन और वैभव कालीदास में था। उनके काव्य को "आलीशान गुम्बद" कहा जाता है।

DECLINE OF THE LEFT - IS IT GOOD FOR INDIA ?

"The Left finds that its space is shrinking. Our leaders have to change or they may soon find themselves out."

A B BARDHAN, Veteran CPI leader

BHARAT PENSIONER

Russian, European, American & Latin American literature and literateurs:-

"Today I saw Gorky in the compound of Hori / And High Royal Priest Kung in the shadow of the Taj / Clasping hands with Lincoln / And Tolstoy spoke from my rural UP-ian lips / And new history in the eyes of Aragon / Became the headline of the story of my heart / I am that exuberance of Josh / Which confronts the Neruda eyebrows like the wine glass / That very Neruda, my Neruda, who is the loving & true messenger of the World Peace Post Office / That Josh of mine who is the intoxicated lover of the world / I'm the beat of the virgin - romanticism of Pant / Swinging with joy, I'm the Rama's tear of Nirala / Who piercing the difficult iron curtains of the 3rd World War, like the atomic needle, marched upto edge of the universe / And there he was stopped & there was Me only / In the eye of the people / Who is the most sacred soul of Peace."

Shamsher throws a challenge to the ever-present time: "Time / I am in competition with thee, Thou the invincible / Equally invincible I reside in Thee."

Shamsher's language is full of form. He introduced a new trend in Hindi literature. Such a planning and grandeur could be found only in Kalidas. His poetry, in two words, is known as "The Grand Dome".

(English rendering by Shyam Sunder)

जावक क्रमांक : रि/ए/इ पी एस/पेंशन/आसो/नागपूर/4 दिनांक: 10.04.2011 प्रति, मा. श्री श्याम सुंदर, सेक्रेटरी जनरल, भारत पेंशनर्स समाज, 2/13-ए होस्पीटल रोड, जंगपुरा-ए, नई दिल्ली – 110014

संदर्भ – पत्र क्रमांक बी पी एस/एमजी/2 K 11 तारीख

04/05/11 के संदर्भ में

महोदय, उपरोक्त संदर्भित पत्र तारीख 04/05/11 को प्राप्त हुआ। आपने हमारी संस्था तथा ई.पी.एस के पेंशन ए आरकों के प्रति जो अनियता दिखाई है और जो मार्ग हमें सूचित किया है उसके लिये यह संरथा आपके प्रति अपना आभार व्यक्त करती है। भविष्य में यदि आपकी सहायता की आवश्यकता हुई तो आपकी और से जरूर मिलेगी एसी मनोकामना करते हैं। धन्यवाद!

ए.क्षी.कुलकर्णी, सचिव, रिटायर्ड एम्पालाइज ईपीफ, 14/6 एम्प्रेस मिल चाल, संत्रा मार्केट, नागपूर-440 018

A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT AFTER PROLONGED STRUGGLE

BSNL Pensioners get pension at increased rate w.e.f. 1.1.2007: Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) was formed out of Department of Telecom (DoT) as Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) w.e.f. 1.10.2000. The employees who opted for BSNL were given better scales and consequently more pension by the new undertaking. C.C.S. (Pension) Rules 1972 were made applicable to them and a special provision has been made for these BSNL absorbees by inserting Rule 37-A in the Pension Rules. The annual pension liability in respect of these BSNL pensioners continues with the Govt. of India.

The employees of the BSNL were extended the benefit of 'II Pay-Revision' w.e.f. 1.1.2007. On the same lines the persons who have retired during the period 1.10.2000 to 31.12.2006 are also now given the benefit of II Pay Revision. The Deptt. of Telecom New Delhi has notified the orders under No. 40-17/2008-Pen(T)-Vol.III dt. 15.03.2011 prescribing the modalities for revising pension and family pension. A time schedule for issue of revised Pension Payment Orders (PPOs), payment of pension at increased rate and for payment of arrears has been prescribed.

As per para 4.1, the pension and family pension will be revised as under :

i. The existing pension (including commuted portion) and Family Pension	(a) Rs.
ii. Dearness Relief @ 68.8 of Pension on (a) above	(b) Rs.
iii. Fitment wage @ 30% of the total of Pension Plus Dearness Relief	(c) Rs.
iv. Total Revised Consolidated Pension / Family Pension	(d) Rs.

The minimum pension will be Rs. 3,880/- (i.e. 50% of the initial stage Rs. 7,760/- of the minimum Scale for BSNL) and maximum Rs. 45,000/-.

Since the consolidated pension will be inclusive of commuted portion of pension, the commuted portion will be deducted while making actual payment.

The quantum of pension and family pension to the old pensioners shall be increased as follows :

Age of Pensioner	Add Quantum	Age of Pensioner	Add Quantum
From 80 yrs to less than 85 yrs	20% of pension	From 95 yrs to less than 100 yrs	50% of pension
From 85 yrs to less than 90 yrs	30% of pension	100 years and above	100% of pension
From 90 yrs to less than 95 yrs	40% of pension		

Dearness Relief:

The Dearness Relief admissible w.e.f. 1.1.2007 has been merged while fixing consolidated pension, and hence the same will be zero% on 1.1.2007.

The Dearness Relief will thereafter be, as notified every quarter and the same is 43% w.e.f. 1.1.2011. The Dearness Relief will be admissible on consolidated revised pension (before commutation) and will be payable for Additional Quantum also.

Payment of Pension at revised rates :

The Controller of Communication Accounts (CCA) DoT stationed at Circle Hq, will issue revised PPO fixing the pension and family pension to the Pension Disbursing officers (PDOs) such as Banks and Post offices by 30th June 2011.

Payment of pension at revised rate should start from the month of July 2011 and payment of arrears should be completed by 30.9.2011.

The DoT has **not** supplied a Ready Reckoner showing the rate of Basic Pension and corresponding revised consolidated pension.

The revised pension and arrears can be arrived at by following simple formula.

Basic Pension or Family Pension x 2.1944 = Revised Pension.

Basic Pension or Family Pension x 30.4 = Arrears for the period from 1.1.2007 to 30.6.2011.

I take this opportunity to congratulate all the BSNL pensioners who have retired before 1.1.2007 for getting pension at increased rate. This could be achieved by means of our unity and by dint of hard work.

(Pune 10.05.2011) Shreepad Deshpande, Secy (BSNL/PSU) Bharat Pensioners Samaj

APPEAL : Contribute 1% of Arrears (minimum ₹ 1,100) to BPS, New Delhi - 110 014

Peepli live Cast : Raghuvir Yadav, Omkar Das Manikpuri, Naseeruddin Shah, Malaika Shenoy, Farrukh Jaffer Direction: Anusha Rizvi Duration: 1 hour 36 minutes

Enter **Peepli**, a small village in the hinterland where a farmer duo, Natha (Omkar Das Manikpuri) and Budhia (Raghuvir Yadav), are struggling to hold on to their land. Threatened by extreme poverty, they fall upon a novel plan. Natha decides to commit suicide to avail of the Rs 1 lakh compensation package doled out by the government. But before he can do that, the news spreads like wildfire. The unknown hamlet soon becomes the favourite hunting ground for voyeuristic news channels, hungry for TRPs, unscrupulous politicians, eyeing their vote banks, fumbling bureaucrats, foxed and clueless about the strange turn of events... Can the farmer's family hope for succour? Is India equipped to handle its swelling population of forgotten and marginalised citizenry? Does Natha survive? Good questions... Big question: How smart can Indian cinema get? Exhilarating answer: Very smart.

And that's the bottomline of **Peepli Live**, a small little film, that showcases the real India without glossing over the contradictions of our fumbling-bumbling democracy or getting overtly sentimental about garibi and the attendant grime that goes with it. Refreshingly, the film unfolds like a hard-hitting satire that turns its tongue-in-cheek gaze over almost all that's incongruous in contemporary Indian society: The rural rot, the yawning rural-urban divide, the vote-bank politics, the out-of-sync bureaucracy, the we-give-a-damn political class, the TRP-lusting media and the total insensitivity towards real people, real problems, real solutions for a real India.

So, we get to savour this delightful scene where the caretakers of the Indian State try to prevent Natha's suicide by gifting him a 'Lal Bahadur' (read hand-pump) without providing for the requisite funds for its fitting. Needless to say, the hand-pump lies unused in the destitute farmer's courtyard and doubles up mostly as a plaything for the village urchins. Then again, there's a local politician who tries to gain mileage by gifting him a colour TV quite like Marie

BHARAT PENSIONER

Antoinette's famous blooper: '*If they don't have food, give them cakes!*' And finally, there are the State officials who go through their entire gamut of garibi-hatao schemes, only to realize there is nothing tailor-made to prevent a farmer from committing suicide.

All this while hordes of television news channels have descended onto the non-de-script village and transformed it into a comedy circus, complete with cameras that intrude right into Natha's house and try to do an expose on his poop as well. It isn't really difficult to recognise the various real-life TV journalists who are good-humouredly spoofed at in **Peepli Live**.

The high point of the film indeed is its smart and sassy script. But more than all this, it's the life-like portrayals that add a refreshing authenticity to the film. Hand-picking the actors mostly from Habib Tanvir's famed Naya Theatre troupe was indeed a coup for debutant Director Anusha Rizvi. The show stealers here are Raghuvir Yadav, Omkar Das Manikpuri and Farrukh Jaffer. Jaffer's old and acrimonious mom act is absolutely brilliant, even as Natha's face mirrors the pain, anguish and confusion of a simpleton trapped between the contradictory pulls of a hungry family on the one side and an uncaring State — and polity — on the other. The music of the film deserves a special mention, with folksy lyrics and tunes by Indian Ocean, Nageen Tanvir, J Brij Mandal and the rest. *Just a word of caution:* The film does tend to get repetitive midway and the story goes a bit low on the emotional conflict of Natha and his family, leaving them mostly as bystanders in the circus that revolves around them.

But by and large, **Peepli Live** is a lively and living document on the 'other' India, that lives beyond the neon lights and the cruising metros. Another ace up Aamir Khan's sleeve! This time as producer of a film that has loads to say, without being boring and didactic.

Courtesy : Hindustan Times

*I wish a day comes when I can drive
past the border to Pakistan just like
I can do in Europe today.*

FAROOQ ABDULLAH, Union Minister
for New and Renewable Energy

Wheat Mountains of the Punjab

By M.S. Swaminathan

It was in April-May 1968, that the country witnessed the wonderful spectacle of large arrivals of wheat grain in the mandis of Punjab like Moga and Khanna. Wheat production in the country rose to nearly 17 million tonnes that year, from the previous best harvest of 12 million tonnes. Indira Gandhi released a special stamp titled "Wheat Revolution" in July 1968, to mark this new phase in our agricultural evolution. The nation rejoiced at our coming out of a "ship to mouth" existence. Later in 1968, Dr. William Gaud of the U.S. referred to the quantum jumps in production brought about by semidwarf varieties of wheat and rice as a "green revolution." This term has since come to symbolise a steep rise in productivity and, thereby, of production of major crops.

Wheat production this year may reach a level of 85 million tonnes, in contrast to the seven million tonnes our farmers harvested at the time of independence in 1947. I visited several grain mandis in Moga, Khanna, Khananon and other places in the Punjab during April 23-27, 2011 and experienced, concurrently, a feeling of ecstasy and agony. It was heart-warming to see the great work done by our farm men and women under difficult circumstances when, often, they had to irrigate the fields at night due to a lack of availability of power during the day. The cause of agony was the way the grains produced by farmers with loving care were being handled. The various State marketing agencies and the Food Corporation of India (FCI) are trying their best to procure and store the mountains of grains arriving every day. The gunny bags containing the wheat procured during April-May 2010, are still occupying a considerable part of the storage space available at several mandis. The condition of the grains of earlier years presents a sad sight. The impact of moisture on the quality of paddy is even worse. Malathion sprays and fumigation with Aluminium Sulphide tablets are used to prevent grain spoilage.

Safe storage involves attention to both quantity and quality. **Grain safety is as**

important as grain saving. Due to rain and relatively milder temperature, grain arrivals were initially slow, but have now picked up. For all concerned with the procurement, dispatch and storage of wheat grains in the Punjab-Haryana-Western U.P. region, which is the heartland of the green revolution, the task on hand is stupendous.

Farmers in Punjab contribute nearly 40 per cent of the wheat and 26 per cent of the rice needed to sustain the public distribution system. The legal entitlement to food envisaged under the proposed National Food Security Act cannot be implemented without the help of the farm families of Punjab, Haryana and other grain surplus areas. Farmers are currently facing serious problems during production and post-harvest phases of farming due to inadequate investment in farm machinery and storage infrastructure. The investment-made and steps taken to ensure environmentally sustainable production and safe storage and efficient distribution of grains will determine the future of both agriculture in Punjab and national food security.

On the production side, there is an over-exploitation of the aquifer and nearly 70 per cent of irrigated area shows a negative water balance. The quality of the water is also deteriorating due to the indiscriminate use of pesticides and mineral fertilizer. Over 50,000 ha. of crop land in the south-west region of Punjab are affected by water logging and salinisation. Deficiencies of Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Zinc are affecting 66.48 and 22 per cent of soils in Punjab respectively. No wonder factor productivity, i.e., return from a unit of input, is going down. Unless urgent steps are taken to convert the green revolution into an evergreen revolution leading to the enhancement of productivity in perpetuity without associated ecological harm, both agriculture in Punjab and our public distribution system will be in danger. Worried about the future fate of farming as a profession, the younger generation is unwilling to follow in the footsteps of their parents and remain on the farm. This is the greatest worry. If steps are not taken to attract and retain youth in farming, the older generation will have no option but to sell land to real estate agents, who are all the time

tempting them with attractive offers. Global prices of wheat, rice and maize are almost 50 per cent higher than the minimum support price paid to our farmers. Our population is now over 1.2 billion and we can implement a sustainable and affordable food security system only with home-grown food.

I hope the loss of interest in taking to farming as a profession among male youth will remove the bias in favour of male children, fore-see an increasing feminisation of agriculture in the green revolution areas. While the drop in the sex ratio should be halted, steps are also needed to intensify the design, manufacture and distribution of women friendly farm machinery.

Tasks ahead: The first task is to defend the gains already made in improving the productivity and production of wheat, rice, maize and other crops. For the purpose of providing the needed technologies, it will be advisable to set up soon a Multi-disciplinary Research and Training Centre for Sustainable Agriculture at the Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. Such a centre should initiate a Land and Water Care Movement in the Punjab in association with the farming community. The other urgent task is the promotion of appropriate changes in land use. Over 2.7 million ha. are now under rice leading to the unsustainable exploitation of the ground water. Our immediate aim should be to find alternative land use for about a million ha. under rice. This will be possible only if farmers can get income similar to that they are now earning from rice. Possible alternative crops will be maize and arhar (Pigeon pea). Quality Protein Maize will fetch a premium price from the poultry industry which is fast growing in the Punjab. Other high value but low water requiring crops like pulses and oilseeds can also be promoted. At the same time, there could be diversified basmati rice production in over a million ha. In addition to Pusa Basmati 1121 which occupies the largest area now, Pusa Basmati-I (1460) and Pusa Basmati 6 (1401) can be promoted. These have resistance to bacterial leaf blight. Varietal diversity will reduce genetic vulnerability to pests and diseases.

For handling the over 26 million tonnes of

wheat which will be purchased during this season, a four-pronged strategy may be useful. First, distribution through railway wagons could be expanded and expedited. They can be dispatched to different States for meeting the needs of PDS, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), School Noon Meal Programme, Annapoorna, etc. Second, the present Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and godown storage systems can be improved with a little more investment and planning. Third, storage in modern silos, like the one put up at Moga by Adani Agrilogistics, and another one coming up in Amritsar, should be promoted. This will help to adopt an end-to-end system from the point of view of procurement, cleaning, quality assurance, safe storage and distribution. An investment of about Rs.10,000 crore would help to establish a grid of modern grain storages with a capacity for storing, in good condition, over 15 million tonnes in the Punjab-Haryana-Western U.P. region. Lastly, export options can be explored after taking steps to make food available to the hungry, as suggested by the Supreme Court. Also, we should ensure that adequate food grains will be available for implementing the proposed Food Security Act. Export should be done only if the global food prices are attractive and if the profit made is distributed as bonus to our farmers, as suggested by the National Commission on Farmers.

It is time that we organise a National grid of grain storages, starting with storage at the farm level in well designed bins and extending to rural godowns and regional ultramodern silos. Unless the prevailing mismatch between production and post-harvest technologies is ended, neither the producer nor the consumer will derive full benefit from bumper harvests.

*(M.S. Swaminathan is Chairman MSSRF, and Member of Parliament of the Rajya Sabha.)

The views expressed by the author are personal.

Courtesy : New Age Weekly, New Delhi - 02

TOMATO FIGHTS BP !

Eating tomatoes daily could help lower cholesterol and blood pressure levels, thus keeping heart disease at bay, says a new study. *Courtesy : PTI*

GOI ORDERS

June 2011

RAILWAY BOARD'S RBE No 80/2011 - letter No. E (W)/2010/PS-5-17/1 New Delhi, the 3.06.2011.

Sub: Issue of Privilege Pass/PTO and Post Retirement Complimentary Pass in the next year's account.

Clause (xiv) of Rule 3 under General Rules Relating To Privilege Passes/PTOs contained in Schedule-II (Pass on Privilege Account) of Railway Servants (Pass) Rules, 1986, as subsequently amended by ACS No. 31 issued vide Board's letter No. E(W)2000/PS 5-1/35 dated 12-1-2001, provides that when an employee has availed all passes due to him/her in a calendar year, one set of pass,, and/or one set of PTO may be issued to him/her for journeys commencing in the next year only and the Pass/PTO may be debited to the next year's Pass Account, and such advance issue of Pass/PTO should not exceed 60 days of the current year from the date of issue. Similarly, item No.(i) under Column 4 (Other facilities) of Schedule-IV (Post Retirement Complimentary Pass) of the said Rules, as subsequently amended by ACS No.34, issued vide Board's letter No. E(W)2000/PS 5-1/35 dated 19-04-2001, provides that a retired Railway servant may be issued, on his/her request, one set of Complimentary Pass 60 days in advance of the current calendar year from the date of issue, for journeys commencing in the next year duly debiting such issue of complimentary pass in the next year's account.

2. It has been represented by the Staff side that reservation in trains being now available 90 days in advance of the date of journey, the period of 60 days for issue of advance Privilege Pass/PTO/ Post Retirement Complimentary Pass may be extended so that reservation could be applied for well in advance of the intended date of journey as per extant advance reservation provisions.

3. The matter has been considered and the President is pleased to direct that clause (xiv) of Rule 3 under General Rules Relating, To Privilege Passes/PTOs as contained in Schedule -II (Pass on Privilege account) and item no. (i) under Column 4 (Other facilities) of Schedule IV (Post Retirement Complimentary Pass) shall be

amended as per Advance Correction Slip No.68 enclosed.

4. This issues with the concurrence of the Finance Directorate of the Ministry of Railways.
Debasis Mazumdar, Joint Director Estt.(Welfare)

OM F. No. 42/15/20II-P&PW(G) dt 11.04.2011 from Deptt of Pension & Welfare 3rd Floor, Lok Nayak Bhavan, New Delhi-110 003

Sub: Grant of Dearness Relief to Central Government pensioners who are in receipt of provisional pension or pension in the pre-revised scale of 5th CPC w.e.f. 1.1.2011

In continuation of this Department's OM No. 42/18/2010-P&PW(G) dated 27th October, 2010 sanctioning the Dearness Relief to those Central Government pensioners who are in receipt of provisional pension or pension in the pre-revised scales of 5th CPC, the President is pleased to grant the Dearness Relief to these Central Government pensioners as under:

(i) Those who are in receipt of provisional pension or pension in the pre revised scales of 5th CPC are entitled to Dearness Relief @ 115% w.e.f 1.1.2011.

(ii) The surviving CPF beneficiaries who have retired from service between the period 18.11.1960 to 31.12.1985 and are in receipt of ex-gratia @ Rs. 600/- p.m. w.e.f. 1.11.1997 under this Department's OM No. 45/52/97-P&PW(E) dated 16.12.1997 are entitled to Dearness Relief @ 115% w.e.f. 1.1.2011.

2. The following categories of CPF beneficiaries who are in receipt of ex-gratia payment in terms of this Department's OM No. 45/52/97-P&PW(E) dated 16.12.1997 are entitled to DR @ 107% w.e.f. 1.1.2011:

(i) The widows and dependent children of the deceased CPF beneficiary who had retired from service prior to 1.1.1986 or who had died while in service prior to 1.1.1986 and are in receipt of Ex-gratia payment of Rs. 605/- p.m.

(ii) Central Government employees who had retired on CPF benefits before 18.11.1960 and are in receipt of Ex-gratia payment of Rs. 654/-, Rs. 659/-, Rs. 703/- and Rs. 965/-.

3. Payment of DR involving a fraction of a rupee shall be rounded off to the next higher rupee. In

their application to the pensioners/family pensioners belonging to Indian Audit and Accounts Department, these orders issue in consultation with the C&AG.

4. This issues with the concurrence of Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure vide their OM No. 1(4)/EV/2004 dated 8th April, 2011.

K.S. Chibb, Director

OM No.2/10/2010-CR dt 16.07.2010
 Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Personnel & Training
 North Block, New Delhi
 Sub: Streamlining Receipt, Disposal and follow-up of RTI requests and Appeals

It is noted that the receipt, follow-up and monitoring system for RTI requests and appeals is not streamlined which has resulted in late disposal of such requests and on many occasions it has also invited displeasure to the Central Information Commissioner (CIC)

2.0 An RTI Cell has been set up under the charge of US (Administration) to coordinate all work relating to disposal of RTI requests and appeals and its functions have been detailed vide OM No. 2/10/2010-CR dated 9th July, 2010. In continuation of the aforesaid OM, detailed instructions for dealing with RTI Requests and Appeals are given hereunder which need to be scrupulously followed by all concerned.

3.0 Receipt of RTI Applications

3.1 RTI Requests are received in this Department through following means:

- (a) Direct receipt in the Central Receipt' (CR) Section;
- (b) Directly received by the concerned
- (c) Received by Senior Officers as reference from or from other Public Authorities especially, PMO and Cabinet Sectt.

3.2 As soon as any RTI application is received by any career or in any office, it will be immediately sent to SO (RTI Cell), along with the payment, if any, enclosed. This will apply even to the applications received by the CPIOs.

3.3 RTI Cell will handle the applications in the following manner:

- (a) If an RTI request does not concern DOPT, it would immediately be sent to the

concerned public authority, Such cases will be finalized by US (Administration), who may consult (Administration) as per need. However, such consultations to be done on an urgent basis end not in a routine manner.

(b) In case, information pertains to DOPT and one other Public Authority, part that concerns the other Public Authority would be transferred to them by RTI Cell at the level of US (Administration).

(c) In case, part of the information pertains to DOPT and part pertains to more than one Public Authority, further processing will be made only regarding the part that concerns DOPT and as per existing instructions applicant will be informed to "make a separate request to concerned Public Authorities at his/her own

(d) RTI Cell would examine that correct fee (by correct mode) has been received. In case it is not so, the application would be returned with the remarks that it may be resubmitted along with correct fee (by correct mode).

(e) For applications where correct fee has been submitted, the fee will be deposited by RTI Cell and receipt obtained. Thereafter,

(i) If RTI application concerns only one CPIO it would be marked to the concerned CPIO along with the fee receipt after making necessary entries into the RTI-MIS. Thereafter, the application would be handled under the relevant provisions of RTI Act by the concerned CPIO.

(ii) If the information sought from DoPT concerns more than one CPIO, the original application would be entered into the RTI-MIS and thereafter, separate copies would be marked to the relevant CPIOs who would then handle them as independent RTI applications. In these cases the fee receipt will be sent to the CPIO dealing with the first part of query.

(iii) In all cases a unique RTI Registration number will be generated, which will enable monitoring till the application is disposed off. In case, part of one application is being sent to more than one CPIO, unique number will be generated for each of the parts. However, in such cases numbering would be such that it would be possible to link all the parts together.

3.4 It may be reiterated that vide Order No.2/3/2010-CR dated 7/6/2010, it has been laid down that no CPIO will refuse to accept an application which has been marked to them by the Coordination Section (now RTI cell). In case this happens, RTI Cell would immediately bring this to the notice of Director (Administration) who will take further necessary action urgently and if needed, bring it to the notice of the higher authorities as mentioned in the aforesaid Order. Such cases of refusal by CPIO would be viewed extremely seriously and may result in disciplinary action.

3.5 However, in case a CPIO is genuinely aggrieved with wrong marking of an RTI request, he will personally bring it to the notice of Director (Administration) who will either refuse the request or agree to transfer in full or a part of the RTI request to another CPIO(s). If a change is made, the application will be routed again through RTI cell which will make necessary corrections in the RTI-WIS. It is, however, reiterated that till the time the application [or a part thereof] is transferred to another CPIO by the RTI cell, the CPIO to whom it was originally marked will continue to remain responsible.

4.D Disposal of RTI applications by

- (a) The concerned CPIO would handle the RTI request as per the provisions of the Act/Rules and once the reply is ready to be sent, entry will be made into the RTI-MIS and the reply would be uploaded. An intimation will automatically reach the RTI cell as soon as the above is done. RTI cell will not dispatch RTI letters / replies unless this intimation is received through the system.
- (b) After relevant entry is made in the RTI-MIS, the CPIO will keep the reply in the envelope and details of the RTI Registration no. and nature of reply etc. would be superscribed on the envelope. Director (Administration) will be providing special envelopes (called RTI envelopes) to all CPIOs and AAs and all correspondence with applicants will be mailed in these envelopes.
- (c) These envelopes will be sent to the RTI Cell - who will thereafter ensure dispatch of these replies through R&I cell as per the established procedure and make necessary entry into the RTI-MIS regarding dispatch date and means.

(d) In order to ensure that the time limit's for disposal of applications are met, CPIOs (and AAs) are required to send the replies to RTI cell at least 2 days before the deadline.

(e) It is possible that additional fee is required to be paid before a request can be entertained. The concerned CPIO will make relevant entry into the RTI-MIS which would result in a standard letter being generated through the software giving full detail of the RTI query as well as additional fee to be deposited. This letter will be sent to RTI Cell for further dispatch. Such additional fee whenever received (either directly by the CPIO or through CR Section) will again be sent to RTI Cell who will thereafter deposit this with the Cash Section and update the RTI-MIS accordingly. Thereafter, the intimation of receipt of additional fee will be sent to the concerned CPIO for further action in the matter.

(f) In some cases, an interim reply is sent to the applicant. Although these communication will also be dispatched through RTI Cell no entry into the RTI-MIS will be made regarding such interim replies.

5.0 Receipt and Disposal of RTI Appeals.

The system for receiving and handling the appeals will be simpler as in such cases the name of the Appellate authority [AA] is known to the RTI applicant and no payment of fee is involved.

- (a) As and when an appeal is received by an AA, she will make necessary entry into the RTI-MIS and will handle it as per the provisions of the Act/Rules.
- (b) If any appeal is received directly in the CR Section or by an officer who is not the concerned AA, all such references will be sent to the RTI Cell who will make necessary entry into RTI-MIS and forward it to the concerned AA for taking necessary action.
- (c) In case appeal is received through email, a print out will be taken and entry will be made into the RTI-MIS and thereafter it would be handled like any other appeal received through post.
- (d) On disposal of appeal procedure for handling them would be the same as detailed for disposal of RTI applications.

6.0 Monitoring of RTI applications and appeals

Time limits have been prescribed under the RTI act and rules regarding disposal of RTI applications and appeals and all the CPIOs and AAs are expected to adhere to them. RTI cell would generate;

(a) Exception reports of cases where disposal has not been made within 25 days of the receipt of RTI request and appeals, These would be posted on the Intra-MOP, so that JSs and other supervisory officers may also follow up with the concerned CPIO.

(b) A monthly report of all RTI request received and deposited off during the month with a comparative picture. These report will also be posted on the Intra-MOP.

(c) A quarterly report regarding disposal and receipt including CPIO wise analysis of disposal.

(d) Annual Reports as prescribed by the CIC.

7.0 This system of centralized management of RTI applications / appeals will be followed by all Divisions located in North Block. As far as offices located in JNU Campus (Training Division) or Lak Nayak Bhawan are concerned, they will continue to handle the RTI request and appeals as per current arrangements. However, all the applications and appeals would necessarily be entered into the RTI-MIS so that correct picture of receipts and disposals for the department may always be assessed.

8.0 These instructions will come into effect from 1 August 2010. Prior to that brief training session will be organized by the RTI cell with the cooperation of NIC, to demonstrate the working of the RTI-MIS and to remove doubts. If any, about the procedure detailed above.

9.0 These instructions issue with the approval of Secretary (P).

Harish Chander, Under Secy (Admn)

DECLINE OF THE LEFT - IS IT GOOD FOR INDIA ?

“It’s my agony that the Left parties are becoming irrelevant. The leadership is getting smug and arrogant.”

Somnath Chatterjee, ex-Speaker, Lok Sabha

RTI : EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENT

OM No.1/12/2010-IR from dt 19.05.2011 PG & Pensions Department of Personnel & Training North Block, New Delhi

Sub: Effective Implementation of RTI Act, 2005- Setting up of RTI Cells.

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Departments OM No.1/32/2007-IR dated 14* November, 2007 whereby all the public authorities with more than one Public Information Officer (HQ) were advised to create a Central Point within the organization to receive RTI applications; in appeals and ensure quick distribution thereof. Experience of past five years has shown that there is a need to expand the scope of the Central Point so as to deal with the RTI-related issues effectively.

2. In this context a RTI Cell has been set up in the Department of Personnel and Training (by reorganizing, the staff in Administration Division) with the following functions:

- to receive RTI application appeals ‘decisions of the Central Information Commission (CIC) and to route them to CPIOs /AAs;
- dispatch replies to RTI requests and appeals including the letters inquiring the applicants to deposit additional fee;
- transfer applications not pertaining to the public authority to the concerned public authority;
- maintain lists of PIOs, Firs* Appellate Authorities and their link officers; and
- coordinate the work relating to proactive disclosure, and the Annual Report of the Central Information Commission etc.,

A copy of the OM No. 2/10/2010 dated 9th July, 2010 detailing the roles and functions of the RTI Cell is enclosed at Annexure 1.

3- Subsequent to the setting up of the Cell, detailed instructions were issued to outline the procedures for handling, RTI applications, appeals vide OM No 2/10/2010 dated 16th July, 2010 (Annexure II). This cell has been functioning for the last 9 months and has resulted “in better compliance with the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.

4. It is recommended that Ministries’ Departments may set up RTI Cells to streamline; the receipt and disposal of RTI Applications. They may use

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the arrangements made by DoPT vide OMs referred to above with suitable modifications.

5. Ministries/ Departments may also avail of a one-time grant of up to Rs. 50,000.00 for procuring a computer along with a printer and seamier facility for RTI Cells under the Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme "Improving transparency and accountability through Effective Implementation of RTI" being implemented by ibis Department. Balance expenditure may be met by the Ministries/departments from their own funds. Central Public Authorities may send detailed proposals as per proforma in 'Annexure III to Deputy Secretary (IR), Room No. 280, North Block, New Delhi -110001. Telefax: 23093074, email osdrti-dopt@-nic.in

6. The status of setting up of RTI Cells by all Central Public Authorities may kindly be intimated to this department by 31st July, 2011

K.G.Verma, Director, Tel: 309158

OM No.4/10/2011IR dt 18.05.2011 from Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, of Deptt Personnel & Training North Block New Delhi
Sub: Strengthening Implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005

Central Chief Information Commissioner has made a reference to the Secretary making several suggestions for effective implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005. It has been decided in consultation with the Cabinet Secretariat that following action shall be undertaken by all Ministries/Departments/Attached Offices/PSUs of Central Government to strengthen the implementation of the RTI Act.-

a) In the Annual reports of the Central Ministries/ Departments and other attached/subordinate offices/PSUs, a separate chapter shall be included regarding implementation of the RTI Act in their respective offices- This chapter should detail the number of RTI applications received and disposed off during the year, including number of cases in which the information was denied, In addition to the above, efforts made to improve the implementation of the Ad in (heir respective offices,, including any innovative measures that have been undertaken, should also be listed. This is to be ensured for Annual reports for the year 2011 -12 onwards.

b) Each Ministry/Department should organize atleast a half day training programme for all CPIOs/Appellate Authorities (AAs) every year to sensitize them about their role in implementation of the RTI Act. The concerned Ministries/ Departments shall ensure that similar programmes are organized for all CPIOs/AAs of all attached/subordinate offices and PSUs under their control as well.

c) All public authorities who have a web site skill publish the details of monthly receipts and disposal of RTI applications on the websites. This should be implemented within 10 days of the close of the month, Ministries/Departments would ensure that these instructions are communicated to their attached/subordinate offices as well as PSUs immediately. Monthly opening on the above pattern should begin latest by 10th July, 2011 for the month of June 2011 and thereafter continue on a regular basis.

2. All the Ministries/Departments are requested to take action as above and also to ensure that these instructions are communicated to their attached and subordinate offices/PSUs for compliance.

K G Verma, Director, Tel: 2309 2158

OM No.4/27/2009-P&PW(D)24.05.2011 from
MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES &
PENSIONS (DEPARTMENT OF PENSION & PENSIONERS'
WELFARE) Lok Nayak Bhawan, New Delhi-110003

Sub: Fixed Medical Allowance to beneficiaries of
New Pension Scheme drawing additional
relief on death/disability of government
servant.

The Fixed Medical Allowance (FMA) is granted to Central Govt. Pensioners/Family pensioners who at the time of retirement/death are governed by CCS (Pension) Rule 1972 or other corresponding rules in operation prior to commencement of these rules and are eligible for medical facilities after retirement as per instructions contained in this Departments' OM No.45/57/97-P&PW(C) dated 19.12.97 as clarified from time to time.

2 Grant of FMA to the beneficiaries of New Pension Scheme drawing additional relief on

death/disability of government servant in terms of Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare OM No. 38/41/06/P&PW(A) dated 5th May, 2009 has been examined in consultation with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Deptt. of Expenditure. Since the serving employees who are covered by NPS and residing in areas covered under CGHS are availing CGHS benefits and similarly the serving employees, covered under NPS, who are residing in non-CGHS areas are covered under CS (MA) Rules, hence, the NPS pensioners **drawing additional relief on death/disability of government servant in terms -of Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare OM No. 38/41/06/P&PW(A) dated 5th May, 2009** and staying in areas not covered by CGHS/corresponding health scheme of other Ministries can get a pensioners Medical card by paying appropriate amount in the nearest CGHS/corresponding health scheme of other Ministries covered city to their residence to enable them to obtain indoor treatment. They are also entitled to draw Fixed Medical Allowance as fixed by the government. As and when the Health Insurance Scheme is introduced, the New Pension Scheme pensioners would be shifted to the Health insurance Scheme.

4. These orders are issued with the concurrence of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare vide their ID No. S.11Q15/3/2Q10-CGHS(P) dated 18.11.2010 and Ministry of Finance (Dept. of Expenditure) vide their UO No. 78/EV/2011 dated 22.3.2011 and in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India vide their UO No. 4-Audit(Rules)/17-2009 dated 4.4.2011.

K K Mittal, Director

OM No.BSNL/Admn.I/I(Pt.) dt: 16.05.2011 from BSNL, Corporate Office, Bharat Sanchar Bhawan New Delhi

Sub: Availing of medical facility by the retired employees from the offices located in place of settlement of the retired employees

Ref: Order No. BSNL/Admn.1/1 (Pt) dated 23rd August 2006 stipulating procedure for reimbursement of medical claims for retired employees

It has been observed that employees continue to avail medical facility from the place of retirement even after shifting their place of settlement. For the convenience of the employees and the administration, the competent authority has approved that the employees may change their claim office to their place of settlement. Provisions are made in Clause 1.4 of the orders referred above for change of place of settlement. Therefore retired employees who change the place of settlement may change their claim office to their place of current settlement for early settlement of their claims and also for availing credit facility from the local empanelled hospital during hospitalizations.

Mohan Singh, Assistant General Manager (Admn.I) Tel. No. 23037241 fax No. 23734260

RAIL TICKET CONCESSION - OUR LONG STANDING DEMANDS CONCEDED (PARTIALLY)

50% FOR WOMEN @ 58 NOW - 40% NOW FOR MEN @ 60

Rly Bd's COMMERCIAL CIRCULAR NO. 18 of 2011/ letter No.TCII/2161/2011/SRC/Policy dt.5. 5.2011

Sub: Increase in the element of concession to men senior citizens from 30% to 40% and reduction in the age limit for women senior citizens from 60 to 58 years

As per existing provisions contained in S.No.36 of Annexure to rule 101 of IRCA Coaching Tariff No. 25, Part-I (Vol. II), Senior citizens of minimum 60 years are eligible for concession in the basic fares of Mail/Express trains and all inclusive fares of Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Jan Shatabdi trains. The element of concession is 30% for men senior citizens and 50% for women senior citizens.

2. As announced by Hon'ble MR in Budget Speech for 2011-12, it has been decided to reduce the minimum age for availing concession from 60 years to 58 years in case for women senior citizens. However, the element of concession will continue to remain at 50%,

3. It has also been decided to increase the element of concession in case of men senior

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citizens from 30% to 40%. The minimum age will, however, continue to be 60 years in case of men.
4. There will be no change in other terms and conditions.

5. . This concession will be admissible on tickets purchased on and after 01.06.2011. In case of tickets already issued for travel on & after 01.06.2011, refund of difference of fares will **not** be admissible,

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

7. Wide publicity through various media may be given at regular intervals. Necessary instructions may be issued to all concerned immediately including PRS/UTS immediately and compliance ensured.

Dr.Monica Agnihotri, Director
Passenger Marketing

MOD : PBOR

Circular No.461/ letter No.Grants/Tech/0167/VI dt:11.05.2011

Sub: Implementation of Government's decision on the recommendations of the Cabinet Secretary's Committee Revision of pension in respect of Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) discharged prior to 01.01.2006

Reference: This office Circular No 430 dated 10.03.2010 forwarding GOI MOD letter No PC10(I)/2009-D(Pen/Pol) dt 08.03.2010

Copy of GOI, MOD letter No. PC No 10(01)/2009-D(Pen / Policy) /Vol-II dated 15.04.2011 is forwarded herewith for further necessary action at your end.

2. Table No 133 indicating revised rates of in respect of Ordinary Pension in respect of Pre-01.06.1953 retirees Honorary Viceroy Commissioned Officers is deleted, in view of Para 5.1 of GOI MOD letter dated 08.03.2010. Accordingly Table No. 134 and Table No. 135 has been renumbered as Table No. 133 and 134 respectively.

3. Some columns of the Table No. 31, 32, 35, 47, 60, 61, 91 have been amended and some columns for qualifying service of 25.5 to 28 and above years have been added in Table No. 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127 in GOI MOD letter dated 08.03.2010.

4. All other subsidiary payment instructions will be the same as already circulated vide this office

circular No. 430 dated 10.03.2010. It is requested that the cases for revision as per these orders may please be reviewed at your end. The affected cases may be revised accordingly.

5. It is also requested that a copy of these orders/instructions may please be circulated to all Pension Disbursing Authorities (DPDOs/Paying Branches/Treasuries/PAOs etc) under your jurisdiction to ensure the revision at the earliest.

6. This circular has been uploaded on the PCDA (P) website www.pcdapension.nic.in for disseminating across the defence pensioners and PDAs.

S.N.ROY, ACDA (P)

The following Amended Tables are available in the O/O BPS, Jangpura, New Delhi - 110 014 If anyone needs a copy, the same maybe obtained by ordinary post.

Tables 31, 32, 35, 47, 60, 61, 91, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127

COMMERCIAL CIRCULAR NO 19 OF 2011 letter N.TCII/2196/II/Policy dt 13 .5.2011

Sub: Grant of concession in rail fares to Orthopaedically handicapped/ Paraplegic persons in Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains.

As announced by Hon'ble MR on 25.2.2011 in the Budget Speech for 2011-12, Ministry of Railways have decided to extend the concession admissible to Orthopaedically handicapped/ paraplegic persons in terms of S.No. 25 of Annexure to rule 101 of IRCA Coaching Tariff No. 25 Part I(Vol-II), in Rajdhani/Shatabdi trains also.

2. Accordingly Orthopaedically handicapped/ paraplegic persons who cannot travel without the assistance of escort are eligible for 25% concession in 3-AC & AC Chair Car in all inclusive fares of Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains. The same concession will also be admissible to one escort accompanying the concerned handicapped person.

3. There is no change in other terms and conditions.

4. The concession will be effective on tickets purchased on or after 01.06.2011. In case of tickets already issued for travel on & after 01.06.2011, refund of difference of fares will not be admissible.

5. Wide publicity through various media may be given at regular intervals. Necessary instructions

may be issued to all concerned immediately including PRS/UTS immediately and compliance ensured.

6. This issues with the concurrence of the Finance Dte of the Ministry of Rlys. Dr Monica Agnihotri, Director Passenger Marketing

FMA beyond 2.5 Kms

Letter No A/o.2-1/2008-Medical dt 29.04.11 from Ministry of Communications & Information Technology Deptt of Posts, Medical Section, Dak Bhawan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi – 110 116 to the Editor, Pensioner's Friend and Secy Genl AICGP Assn, N India Region (HQ), Jalandhar
Sub:- Payment of Fixed medical allowance to retired postal pensioners-Reg.

Sir, I am directed to refer to your letter dated 22-3-2011 on the subject mentioned above and to say that the matter regarding grant of fixed medical allowance to postal pensioners/family pensioners who are residing beyond 2.5 kms from the nearest P&T dispensary/CGHS at par with Railway pensioners is pending in the court. This Department has also taken up the matter with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Decision is awaited from that Ministry. Yours faithfully Mahendra Kumar, Asstt Director Genl (Medical)

BRAVO ELECTION COMMISSION !

Letter No. 437/6/MISC/2009-CC&BE/37 dt 08.12.2009 from K N Bhar, Under Secretary, ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA, Nirvachan Sadan, New Delhi to Sh Ved Kumar, H/14-B, Saket, New Delhi-110017

Sub: Election Code of Conduct - Need for Review Sir, Please refer to your letters dated 26/6/2009 and 7/8/2009 and your letter dated 27/11/2009 on the subject cited above. While the Commission has noted the contents of the same, it would like to clarify that Commission cannot interfere in such matters mentioned in your letter, during the period when Model Code of Conduct is not in force i.e. during non election period. However, immediately after announcement of elections, Commission takes all measures to see that Model Code is implemented in letter and spirit so as to ensure free and fair elections.

BHARAT PENSIONER

Letter No. 13-2/2010-TE dt 04.05.2011 from BSNL CORPORATE OFFICE, BHARAT SANCHAR BHAWAN, NEW DELHI - 1

Sub: Non-Executive Promotion Policy (NEPP) for employees in the IDA pay scales of NE-1 to NE-10 of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.- Clarification thereof

REF: This Office letter of even no. dated 04/03/2011

Kindly refer to this Office letter of even no. dated 04/03/2011, vide which it has been clarified that the extra increment granted vide BSNL C.O. letter No. 27-8/2003-TE-II (I) dated 18/11/2003 comes under the concession given by BSNL in relation to BCR/Gr. IV and if an official opt for his erstwhile promotion policy viz.OTBP/BCR/Gr. IV, the extra increment is not to be granted for one year to him prior to his retirement.

2. After issuance of the aforesaid clarification, it has come to the notice of this Office that in some Circles/Units, the aforesaid clarification has been interpreted as if the extra increment given in all cases after 01/10/2000 has to be withdrawn and accordingly these Circles/Units are resorting to the recovery of the amount already given to the employees due to the grant of this extra increment in BCR Gr. III.

3. In this connection, it is clarified that vide Para 5.2 of NEPP Order dated 23/03/2010, it has already been stipulated that the cases settled prior to the issue of this Order, need not be reopened unless the employee himself opts for this Non-Executive Promotion Policy.

4. Accordingly, it is reiterated that the cases of granting of extra increment in BCR Gr. III to the non-executive employees settled before 23/03/2010 need not be reopened and accordingly there is no need for resorting to the recovery from these employees, if these employees opt for continuing in the OTBP/BCR/Grade-IV promotion policy.

5. However, in the cases of the non-executive employees, who have been granted the extra increment in BCR Gr. III, opt for NEPP, then these employees may be regulated as per the option given by these employees in Option Form-II, under Para 6.4 of NEPP Order dated 23/03/2010. If these employees opt to avail their first upgradation as per NEPP by forgoing the extra increment granted

to them under- OTBP/BCR/Grade-IV Schemes, then action may be taken in accordance with the clarification given vide point no. 1 of this Office letter of even no. dated 20/08/2010.

6. It is, therefore, requested that immediate necessary action for implementation of Non-Executive Promotion Policy (NEPP) in accordance with the aforementioned clarifications.

7. This issues with concurrence of BSNL Finance. of BSNL Finance.

Harsh Vardhan Singh, Addl.General Manager (Estd.) TEL. NO. 23737886 FAX NO. 23734365

BEWARE ! 'CERTIFICATE OF POSTING' IS ABOLISHED

Letter No 113-07/2008-SB dt 8.2.2011 from Min of Comms, Deptt of Posts, New Delhi

Sub: DISCONTINUATION OF
'CERTIFICATE OF POSTING'.

Under the provisions of Rule 195 at the Indian Post Office Rules, 1933 'Certificate of Posting' is granted to the public to afford an assurance that letters and other Articles for which no receipts are granted by the Post/ office and entrusted to servants or messengers for posting have actually been posted.

It has since been decided that 'Certificate of Posting' may be discontinued immediately.

A copy of Gazette Notification No. 58 (E) dated 31.1.2011 deleting rule 195 of the Indian Post Office Rules, 1933 regarding 'Certificate of Posting' is enclosed for information and necessary action.

This may kindly be brought to the notice of all concerned for strict compliance. The receipt of this communication may also be acknowledged.

Courtesy: RMS Sentinel, New Delhi

Politicians - Versus Civil Society

They mock them, attack them, call them names, snigger at their demands, question their methods. They even bar their protests. Just what is it that has got politicians so resentful of activists?

Courtesy : OUTLOOK Weekly, New Delhi

PINCHING PRICES Govt in dilemma as food inflation jumps

Government policy-makers are headed for a fresh dilemma, as there is no sign of respite on the inflation front. India's food inflation surged to a two-month high of 9.06% for the week-ended May 28, driven by costlier fruits, and protein-based items such as milk, egg, meat and fish. That means prices are not under control despite a slew of fiscal and monetary measures and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), due for a policy meeting on June 16, may have a bigger headache than it was expecting.

Food inflation was 8.06% in the previous week, but is set to rise further in the next few weeks following a possible hike in prices of diesel and cooking gas. And it does not help that global crude prices are surging again, while Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee said on 8.6.2011 that the Government may miss its tax collection targets—implying a crunch on spending power.

High food and commodity prices are fanning prices of most manufactured goods and inflation of non-food articles has been in the range of 20-25% over the past many weeks. Both the Government and the RBI have acknowledged that underlying inflationary pressures have accentuated, even as risks to growth are emerging.

A lot will still depend on an adequate monsoon. The Met department has forecast a normal monsoon, crucial for the summer-sown crop that accounts for more than half of the country's annual food output.

A strong farm sector output is critical to bringing down food product inflation that is inching towards double digits and has spread on to "core inflation," affecting prices of goods other than food and fuel. *"If monsoon is favourable, food prices will come down over the next 2-3 months. Overall inflation rate will come down slowly by October-end,"* Prime Minister's economic advisory council chairman C Rangarajan told reporters on 9.6.2011.

Courtesy : Hindustan Times, (Business)

AAP AUR HUM ACTIVITY REPORTS FROM OUR AFFILIATES

RENEWAL: Please remember to renew your subscription (Rs.450) whether due this month or the next.

SEND DIRECT: Please send your reports (in English) direct to the Editor, BPS – D Jayaraman, Flat no-23, Plot no-3, Sector 7, Dwarka, New Delhi -110075.

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Add ID: Please quote your ID (mailing number and pin code number) while writing to BPS, New Delhi (Reports received without your ID, mailing no/ Pin code no may not be taken up for publication).

BARASAT (WB): North 24 Pgs CGPA – AGM was held on 11.02.11. R N Dutta, VP, BPS, EZ was the Chief Guest. Last year's AGM Report, Secy's Report and Audited Accts were read out and confirmed. Sr Members (80+) were honoured with momentos. Following office bearers were elected: President – A B Biswas, Secy – A K Bhattacharjee, Treasurer – T K Chakraborty. Besides this, 2 each VPs, Asst Secretaries & Org Secretaries and 11 EC members were also elected.

BARSOI (Distt Katihar): GPA (Rly) – 14th AGM was held on 03.01.11. Following office bearers were elected: President – Banwari Lal, Secy – S L Jaiswal, Cashier – K L Dey. Besides this, 1 Wkg President, 2 each Jt Secretaries and Org Secretaries and 8 EC members were also elected.

BHAVNAGAR (GUJARAT): D O T & BSNL Pensioners Assn – This unit has completed 15 years. They regularly hold AGM every year. Following office bearers were elected: President – Y N Parekh, V P – G M Halwadia, Secy – A B Gandhi. This year, they celebrated May Day on 01.05.11. It was resolved in the meeting that the pensioners should remain united and fight for their legitimate rights.

BHOPAL: C G P A – They submitted a memorandum to the Hon'ble PM of India listing

BHARAT PENSIONER

out Pensioners' Grievances. They demanded full parity of pension for pre-01.01.06 pensioners, withdrawal of New Pension Scheme as also the PFRDA Bill from the Parliament, accord recognition to the BCPC and extend all facilities including effective Grievance Procedure on lines of JCM, increase in FMA, extension of CS (MA) Rules to the pensioners and implementation of the SCPC recommendations w.e.f. 01.01.06.

CHANDIGARH: Customs & Central Excise Pensioners Welfare Assn – AGM was held on 09.04.11. Following office bearers were elected: President – D R Sharma, Sr VP – S S Sandhu, GI Secy – Kailash Nath, J S – S N Kochhar, Cashier – T S Rattan, Auditor – S N Kanwar. Birthday Greetings were extended to members born in Jan, Feb, March, and April. A statement containing the receipt and expenditure of the association was circulated among the members. Members were also informed that the Central Govt has sanctioned the addl DR @ 5% w.e.f. 01.01.11. It was decided to hold the next meeting on 11.06.11.

CHANDIGARH: Defence Accts Pensioners Welfare Assn – An emergency meeting was held on 05.06.11. Members expressed concern over 'barbaric attack' on Swami Ramdev and his supporters. Members also appealed to the Defence Minister to issue smart cards for civilian pensioners of Armed Forces (including Defence Accts Pensioners) at par with serving civilians of Armed Forces.

DANAPUR: E R P Brotherhood – In the meetings held on 10.04.11 and 08.05.11, minutes of the previous meetings and Accts were read out and confirmed. Members were informed about the increase of 5% in DR w.e.f. 01.01.11. by the Central Govt.

DELHI: Pensioners Samaj, Shakur Basti – A meeting was held on 22.05.11. Minutes of the previous AGM were read out and confirmed. Members were informed about the latest Govt orders issued by Rlys, CGHS, Income Tax Dept. A copy of the Souvenir -2011 was distributed to all members. Following office bearers were elected: President – R K Nijhawan, Secy GI – S K Sharma, Cashier – P N Mudgil. Besides this, 2 VPs and 1 each Secy and Jt Secy were also elected.

GUWAHATI: N F R P A (Rest Camp, Pandu) – In the Core Committee held on 24.04.11, T M Biswas, Gen Secy in his written notes for discussions mentioned that the Dharna Programme was befittingly observed on 23.02.11 at various divisions jointly with NFRW and AIREC. He graciously acknowledged receipt of most awaited citation from BPS, New Delhi along with a cash prize of Rs. 5000/- He also mentioned about the decision to hold 3rd National Convention of Rly Pensioners sometime in March/April 2012 at New Jalpaiguri and charted out various steps to make the convention a grand success. His note also referred to the decision that all branches would arrange a meeting to create awareness among members how the New Pension Bill (PFRDA) would affect pensioners if and when enacted.

NFRPA also expressed concern over the hike in price of petrol and other essential commodities. They urged the Central Govt to withdraw the hike in Petrol price.

HOOGHLY: Uttarpura Central Govt Pensioners Assn – 16th AGM was held on 23.02.11. 514 pensioners (including 48 guests) attended the meeting. R N Dutta, VP, EZ of BPS also graced the occasion. Secy informed the gathering receipt of the grant-in- aid of Rs. 60,000/- from the Gol. He also mentioned about receipt of award of Rs.3,000/- from BPS being the 2nd best performer in conducting Assn Affairs. He highlighted that the grievances of good number of pensioners including sanction of family pension of 13 unmarried daughters were solved. Audited Statement of Accts were presented and approved by the House. 28 Sr Members (80+) were honoured with woolen shawls, umbrellas. Following office bearers were elected: President – P B Samajder, GI Secy – B B Ganguly, Treasurer – S N Chakraborty. Besides this, 4 each VPs and Joint Secretaries, 1 each Org Secy, Asst treasurer & Auditor and 11 EC members were also elected.

JHANSI: B P S – The AGM was held on 01.05.11. The Annual Report was read out by the Secy. The Annual Accts and the Audit Report were presented by the Auditor. They were approved by the House. Following office bearers were elected: President – O P Shrivastava, Secy

– M Azeem, Treasurer – D D Mishra. Besides this, 2 Patrons, 3 VPs, 1 each Asst Secy, Org Secy and Auditor, 2 Asst Treasurers, and 11 EC members were also elected. It was unanimously resolved to demand – (i) setting up of the 7th Pay Commission, (ii) enhancement of FMA, (iii) restoration of commuted portion of pension on completion of 12 years, (iv) sanction of addl pension from 70/75 years onwards, (v) extension of 50% Rly Fare Concession to male citizens and (vi) festival amount of Rs. 2000/- per year for each pensioner.

Madhupur : Bharat Pensioners Samaj Honoured by State Bank Of India! - Pensioners honoured by State Bank of India - State Bank of India, Madhupur, Main Branch, honoured 18 Pensioners and 5 Office Bearers Of Bharat Pensioners' Samaj, Madhupur on 14th May, 11, by offering presentation of Umbrella and Pen to individual pensioners and the Office Bearers and also arranged for sweets, snacks and tea.

K P Ghosh, Secretary, BPS, Madhupur
NAGPUR: S E C R P A – It was decided to create awareness and campaign for Body Donation among the pensioners. In this connection, a workshop was organized on 24.04.11. Dr S K Aggarwal, C M D, SEC Rly, presided over the function and explained the importance of this campaign. He assured that the administration would encourage and extend all assistance for any initiative in this direction. J Narayana Rao, GI Secy, observed that this campaign would be held throughout the division and that the pensioners would be motivated to achieve this.

NELLORE: AP Govt R E A – A meeting was held on 20.05.11. The President informed the members that the State Govt would be releasing the DR @ 5.136% from 01.01.11. He requested the Govt to issue Health Cards to the pensioners and family pensioners. The Secy briefed the members about the activities during the month. The President conveyed Birthday Greetings to those who were born in May and presented gifts to them.

NEW DELHI: Pensioners Welfare Samaj, Green Park – 37th AGM was held on 15.05.11. Following office bearers were elected: President – S K Jain, Secy GI – H P Sinha, Treasurer – O P Jain. Besides this, 1 each VP, Addl Secy GI and

Auditor and 11 Area Secretaries were also elected. 6 Sr Members (80/90 years) were honoured with garlands and mementos.

PATIALA: Sr Citizens Assn – Meeting was held on 01.04.11. Members were apprised of the demands listed in 'Bharat Pensioner' (March 2011). Mrs Malhotra, President, Women Welfare Organisation, DMW, Patiala was given a farewell party on 08.03.11. A K Malhotra, Chief Administrative Officer was also given a farewell party on 30.03.11. (He retired on 31.03.11)

PATIALA – Shri S L Duggal, Life Member, BPS has sent news paper cuttings containing important information/judgements. (i) Supreme Court has come to the rescue of disabled veterans who were victimized on account of arbitrary decision by the Govt and has ruled that Armed Forces Personnel who retired before 1996 are entitled to the same benefits as those who retired after 1996. (ii) citing the above judgement, Chandigarh Bench of Armed Forces Tribunal allowed 85 petitions who were similarly placed. The tribunal has directed that the Govt should pay pension arrears to the retirees w.e.f. 01.01.96 with interest @ 8% within 4 months from the date of issue of this order, (iii) Rajasthan High Court has pulled up the LIC for not implementing its Board Resolution of 2001 for payment of equal pension to all retired employees across the country irrespective of the date of their superannuation. It directed the LIC to revise the pensions and DA corresponding to revision of pay scales, (iv) The CBDT Chairman has announced that Income Tax returns filed by Sr Citizens above 60 years and small tax payers with gross total income of less than Rs. 10 lakhs will not be scrutinized in a routine manner ('Tribune' dated 18.05.11).

PATNA: The Customs and Central Excise Pensioners Assn (Bihar & Jharkhand) – 8th Biennial GI Body Meeting was held on 29.04.11. The GI Secy listed out the achievements and presented the Accts. They were duly approved by the House. Issues regarding increase in FMA, medical treatment of Indoor patients, anomalies of the SCPC and the constitution of 7th CPC etc were to be taken up at All India Level. It was felt that no useful purpose would be served by seeking affiliation with the BCPC. It was unanimously

resolved that the present incumbents – President, VP, GI Secy, Treasurer and Asst Secy should continue for 2 more years.

SANTIPUR (WB): C G P A – 22nd AGM was held on 13.02.11. Proceedings of the last AGM held on 09.03.10 was read out and confirmed. Annual Report was also read out and approved by the House. Audited Accts were presented and confirmed. President and others who spoke on the occasion stressed that the unity of all pensioners was of paramount importance and that we should stand united. A Sr Member who was 93 years old was presented with a shawl and flowers.

SILCHAR: P & T Pensioners Assn – AGM was held on 08.05.11. It was attended by large number of members. Secy presented Annual Report and Audited Accts. They were approved by the House. Local issues like road, drinking water, conversion of BG Rly line etc were raised by the members. It was decided to take up these issues with local authorities and get them redressed. It was resolved to demand – (i) recognition of BCPC by the Govt, (ii) full parity in pension for all pre-2006 retirees, (iii) increase in FMA, (iv) implementation of the SCPC recommendations w.e.f. 01.01.06, (v) withdrawal of New Pension Scheme as also PFRDA Bill from Parliament. Members and office bearers appreciated the yeoman services of Shyam Sunder, Secy GI, BPS. One of the senior most pensioner (80+) was felicitated with a memento.

THANE: Zilla Pensioners and Sr Citizens Assn – They have intimated that the Govt of Maharashtra in the Resolution No. DRP-2011/C/R45/SER-4 dated 02.05.11 have sanctioned for State Govt Pensioners and Family pensioners, revised DR of 51% w.e.f. 01.05.11.

YAMUNA NAGAR (HARYANA): Telecom Pensioners Assn – AGM was held on 13.03.11. It was resolved to request the Govt of Haryana to sanction 50% concession in bus fare in Haryana Roadways to all male citizens at par with female Sr citizens, for whom sanction has already been accorded.

MISUNDERSTOOD ?

So long as you live and work, you will be misunderstood; to that you must resign yourself once and for all. Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

THANX !

June 2011

NEW MEMBERS - Annual

A - 0934 :	K C Ahuja	Delhi - 32	04/12
A - 0935 :	Shanta Krishnamurthi	Pune	04/12
A - 0940 :	K K Khattar	Noida	03/12
A - 0942 :	A V Ramana Goud	Kurnool	04/12
A - 0943 :	K S Ramanathan	Bangalore	04/12
A - 0944 :	I Jayarama Murthy	Hyderabad	04/12
A - 0945 :	Vinu Bhai B Mehta	Surendra Nagar	04/12
A - 0946 :	J Chenchaiah	Hyderabad	04/12
A - 0947 :	B N Neogi	Delhi - 49	04/12
A - 0948 :	Asha Nimbalkar	Nagpur	04/12
A - 0949 :	Capt Harbans Singh	Ambala	04/12
A - 0950 :	S K Bose	Bhuvneshwar	02/12
A - 0951 :	Bimalendu B Paul	Kolkata	04/12

NEW MEMBERS - Biennial

A - 0937 :	D K Shukla	Delhi - 08	04/13
A - 0941 :	Gopalji Srivastava	Lucknow	04/13

NEW MEMBERS - Triennial

A - 0936 :	M K Kapse	Nagpur	03/14
A - 0938 :	U K Sharma	Delhi - 70	04/14

AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS (New)

A - 0939 :	NCT, D G Penrs Assn	Faridabad	04/12
A - 0952 :	NSC Assn	Patna	04/12
A - 0953 :	Distt Penrs Assn	Nagaland	04/12

SCPC FUND Donations MAY, 2011

L - 2317	G D Chandan	Gurgaon	1,100*
M - 8045	C Seetaramaiah	Hyderabad	1,000
L - 2131	Kailash N Pushkarna	Delhi - 18	500*
M - 4444	D P Bhatia	Shimla	500
M - 4140	AIACG Pensioners	Aruvankedu	200
A - 0281	G Subramani	Chennai	200
L - 9248	K G Nair	Palakkad	150
A - 0466	Subodh Kumar De	Hooghly	100
M - 8580	J P Jaiswal	Satna	100
A - 0236	Harinath B Shirali	Bangalore	100
L - 9199	V P Sachdev	Delhi - 58	100
M - 1849	P V A Nair	Kaipamangalam	100
M - 6048	Zun Penrs Assn	Nagaland	100

*Received earlier, Delay in ack regretted

AFFILIATED ASSOCIATIONS (RENEWAL)

M - 4140/11 AIACG Pensioners	Aruvankedu	11/11
M - 8377/05 B Penrs Samaj	Jhansi	05/12

M - 5608/11 Rly Penrs Samaj	Chittorgarh	11/12
M - 6668/04 RCGE & FW Orgn	Dankuni	04/12
M - 6664/04 Secy. Dankuni Unit	Hooghly	04/12
M - 6665/04 Unit RCGE & FWO	Paschim Tejpur	04/12
M - 6667/04 Secy Jagdishpur Unit	Jagdishpur Hat	04/12
M - 4690/04 RCGE&FW Orgn	Jangalpara	04/12
A - 0394/06 Rtd CG E&FWOrg	Hooghly	06/12
M - 3864/05 Rtd C G E & F W Orgn	Garalgacha	05/12
A - 0247/02 Rtd Rly EW Assn (NR)	Amritsar	02/12
M - 1355/03 Rly Penrs Assn	Bapatla	03/12
A - 0029/07 NF Rly Penrs Assn	Sodepur	07/12
M - 8409/06 Rly Penrs W Assn	Ambala Cantt	06/12
M - 3520/05 C Govt © Penrs Assn	Shillong	05/12
M - 8944/04 Indian Rly Penrs Assn	Junagadh	04/12
M - 1476/03 A I Orgn of Penrs	Agra	03/12
M - 1611/05 Retd Rly Emplys Assn	Jagadhari	05/12
M - 4730/05 Govt Penrs Assn	Kharagpur	05/12
M - 4247/03 S B I Penrs W Orgn	Adra	03/12
M - 7700/04 UP Penrs Fed Branch	Agra	04/12
M - 5319/06 NF Rly Penrs Assn	Jalpaiguri	06/11
M - 8970/05 Tundla Penrs Assn	Tundla	05/12
M - 6734/07 Distt Govt Penrs Assn	Hooghly	07/11
A - 0390/06 Postal Penrs Assn	Amritsar	06/12
M - 1844/04 Rly Penrs Assn	Hubli	04/12
M - 5105/02 Rly Penrs Assn	Mehsana	02/12
M - 3245/05 C G Penrs Assn	Parganas (N)	05/12
M - 8696/05 Sr C Welfare Assn	Delhi - 32	05/12
M - 8953/04 D A/Cs Penrs W Assn	Patiala	04/12

RENEWAL - Annual

A - 0651/04 S K Pali	Delhi - 34	04/12
M - 8954/04 Dhanpat Ram	Yamuna Nagar	04/12
M - 1874/05 T Ganesan	Jabalpur	05/12
A - 0286/02 H B Buttan	Delhi - 85	02/11
M - 5277/05 Raj Kumar	Delhi - 19	05/12
M - 5976/04 O D Uppal	Kanpur	04/12
M - 7441/06 Raj Kumar Chadha	Ambala Cantt	06/12
M - 7417/05 S N Roy	Jabalpur	05/12
M - 8981/05 J R Pattabhiraman	Chennai	05/12
M - 5967/04 K Jayaraj	Pondicherry	04/12
M - 7714/04 K K Ramrakhani	Vadodara	04/12
A - 0352/04 Rameshchand Sharma	Panjawar	04/12
M - 7787/07 D V Oberoi	Delhi - 85	07/10
M - 8680/04 Subhash Ch Sharma	Delhi - 32	04/12
M - 5974/04 Satinder K Kakkar	Delhi - 92	04/12
M - 6698/05 K K Bhambri	Delhi - 17	05/12
A - 0398/06 K P Prasher	Ambala Cantt	06/12
A - 0399/06 V P Joshi	Ambala Cantt	06/12
M - 6781/10 G S R Murty	Rajamundry	10/12
M - 5259/05 T R Gulati	Dehradun	05/12
M - 6658/04 S M Goswami	Kolkata	04/12
M - 8686/05 A Sarma	Jamshedpur	05/12
A - 0699/04 Manohar Lal	Meerut	04/12
M - 8340/03 Bhanwar Lal Arya	Ajmer	03/12
M - 4667/03 S G Mandale	Ujjain	03/12

M - 8088/05 K Appala Rama Reddy	Kakinada	05/12
M - 5320/06 B G Christie	Nadiad	06/12
M - 6059/06 Man Mohan Sood	Hoshiarpur	06/12
A - 0701/04 A Ramarao	Vizianagaram	04/12
M - 6931/04 Sudarshan Mukherjee	Kolkata	04/12
M - 8561/12 Y Venkateswara Rao	Rajahmundry	12/11
M - 7434/05 M M P Sinha	Distt Rohtas	05/12
M - 1849/04 P V A Nair	Kaipamangalam	04/12
M - 6067/06 Raool Arvind Maganlal	Amravati	06/12
A - 0510/10 S K Sharma	Bareily	10/11
M - 7091/04 G R Agarwal	Varanasi	04/12
A - 0404/06 P K Mahate	Betul	06/12
A - 0720/05 Mohinder Singh	Patiala	05/12
A - 0358/04 Ananda Mohan Kundu	Hooghly	04/12
M - 8108/06 R N Sinha	Sheoraphuli	06/12
M - 8853/02 V S Agnihotri	Bhopal	02/12
A - 0304/02 S N Gupta	Delhi - 92	02/12
M - 5290/06 Gurbachan Singh	Delhi - 21	06/12
A - 0015/06 Sachin Goswami	Kolkata	06/12
M - 4741/06 Senapati Joshi	Bhopal	06/12
M - 7705/04 J P Mathur	Delhi - 18	04/12
M - 5287/05 Pia Singh	Delhi - 91	05/12
A - 0702/05 Ashok Kumar Mago	Delhi - 23	05/12
M - 8999/06 P D Krishnaswamy	Chennai	06/12
M - 6935/04 V K Shah	Nagpur	04/12
M - 8994/06 R Ganpat Vaidya	Nagpur	06/12
M - 3732/06 P Durga Rao SS (Rtd)	Vijayawada	06/12
M - 6958/05 J C Verma	Bareilly	05/12
A - 0267/02 Maghi Ram	Patiala	02/12
M - 7412/04 B P R Naidu	Chittro	04/12
M - 3992/06 Satish Kumar Sethi	Delhi - 64	06/12
M - 8111/06 K N Raghavendra Rao	Hyderabad	06/12
A - 0762/07 D S Murthy	Noida	07/12
M - 3855/05 Devi Lal	Gangapur City	05/12
M - 7726/05 A S Lal	Faridabad	05/12
A - 0011/06 Amar Singh "Premi"	Bawal	06/11

Biennial

A - 0396/06 Gurbachan Singh	Delhi - 18	06/13
A - 0739/06 S C Tiwari	Kanpur	06/13
A - 0368/04 H/Capt H Singh (Retd)	Meerut	04/13
A - 0042/07 O P Bhasin	Gurgaon	07/12
M - 8899/03 Ravi S M Choudhary	Ahmedabad	03/13
M - 4751/06 K V Raghavendran	Navi Mumbai	06/13

Triennial

M - 8996/06 Girish Chandra	Lucknow	06/14
M - 8045/04 C Seetaramaiah	Hyderabad	04/14
M - 5401/07 C L Gupta	Shimla	07/14
M - 7743/05 Sat Pal Gupta	Delhi - 85	05/14
M - 8843/01 N C Balhar	Hyderabad	01/14
M - 7923/11 S K Pandey	Durg	11/13
A - 0366/04 H K Mehdiratta	Delhi - 88	04/14

Relieving you from Joints pain

Are you affected by poor joint health resulting in restriction of movements ?

According to Dr. Asif Naqvi (RT), a senior consultant physiotherapist of Blessings Health care in Defence Colony, New Delhi, whatever the cause of joint ache, the physiology behind the discomfort is generally same. Joint discomfort is due to degeneration of the joint that takes place due to wear and tear of the cartilage, weak muscles and tendons, insufficient synovial fluid to cushion the joint. In more severe cases, bone begins rub against bone making movements extremely strenuous gradually, the discomfort may grow so intense that it debilitates and restrict an lifestyle.

Osteoarthritis, the most common chronic arthritis, account for half of all cases, referred to as degenerative joint disease or wear and tear arthritis. The usual symptoms are deep aching pains localised to the joints involved, stiffness after rest, joints swelling and tenderness a grating sound when the joint is moved, and in later stages bone deformities, the pain is usually present with the movement of the joint and relieved by rest.

Physiotherapy and exercises can help arthritis sufferers in many ways, the primary goal to improve the functional capacity to help reduce pain and fatigue, increasing the range of motion of a joint is the primary focus of the physiotherapy.

Courtesy : Hindustan Times, New Delhi

LEMON : A MIRACULOUS FRUIT

Lemon, a citrus fruit is a miraculous product to kill cancer cells. It is 10,000 times stronger than chemotherapy.

The lemon tree is known for its varieties of lemons and limes. You can eat the fruit in different ways: you can eat the pulp, juice press, prepare drinks, sorbets, pastries.

It is credited with many virtues, but the most interesting is the effect it produces on cysts and tumors. This plant is a proven remedy against cancers of all types. and in all variants of cancer. It is considered also as an anti microbial spectrum against bacterial infections and fungi, effective against internal parasites and worms, it regulates blood pressure which is too high and an antidepressant, combats stress and nervous disorders.

Brig J S Ahuja

Corruption in Judiciary

By S Balan

Bangalore is said to be the capital city of corruption. It is part of a country, which is among the most corrupt in the world. No institution in our country is free from corruption including the judiciary and the very judicial system.

Shanti Bhushan, the then law minister of India and a noted advocate filed an affidavit before the Supreme Court of India contending that out of 16 chief justices of India, eight were definitely corrupt, two were under shadows of doubt and six were honest. The affidavit indicates that about 60 per cent of top judiciary members were corrupt.

A bench consisting of justice Markandey Katju and justice Cyan Sudha Mishra said on November 26, 2010 that most judges of Allahabad high court are corrupt and collude with advocates. They spoke about 'Uncle Judge Syndrome' and said something is rotten in Allahabad High Court itself, quoting from Shakespeare's 'Hamlet'.

Many high court judges are facing charges of corruption. Among them are justice Soumitra Sen of Calcutta high court and former chief justice of Karnataka, justice P.D. Dinakaran. Against Soumitra Sen, there are charges of corruption in office. Against Dinakaran, it was widely reported that the former chief justice of Karnataka possessed wealth disproportionate to the known sources of income. He amassed wealth at different places which include acquiring the public lands meant for Dalits misusing his official position. Then comes the case of Punjab and Haryana high court. A hotelier whose case was pending before justice Nirmal Yadav sent bundles of currency notes of Rs.15,00,000 to be delivered at her residence. Inadvertently the bundles of currency notes were delivered to the house of justice Nirmal Kaur and ultimately culminated in registering criminal case against justice Nirmal Yadav.

Also unforgettable is the Ghaziabad PF scam involving no less than Rs 23 crore in which a supreme court judge, seven judges of Allahabad high court, 12 judges of subordinate courts and

six retired high court judges are allegedly involved. Such charges have been instrumental in destroying the popular faith in the judicial system itself.

The allegations of corruption in judiciary from top to bottom are widely made, reported and believed. People interpret corruption and its own way but the question is, can the corruption in the judiciary be eradicated?

In the year 1215, it was declared in England that 'Justice to none shall we sell, Justice to none shall we deny and Justice to none shall we delay. It is historical experience that in capitalism, justice is brought and sold for a price. Under fascism, justice is denied to minorities. Justice is delayed in both the systems. During the fascist regime of Adolf Hitler in Germany, justice was denied to Jews because they were born as Jews, which ended in killing 60 lakh Jews in the gas chambers without any trial.

Our judiciary and judges did not come from a different planet. They are just one of us probably as corrupt and as greedy as anyone, coming from the same stock. Politics behind corruption cannot be understood without identifying the interrelations between liberalization, culture and values.

Culture is the way a society has chosen for its members to live and expects them to abide by it. The culture comes to be developed and nourished over decades and centuries, since it is supposed to address the living conditions and welfare of the members of the society.

The government of the day shall be under obligation to promote the culture of its people. The culture of a society almost codifies the standard of habits, which a member is supposed to observe to lead a peaceful and respectable life. For instance there are some common needs such as food, shelter and clothing that are basic to any society. A value based society would insist that resources have to be mobilized only through moral and ethical means and not otherwise. The values can be typical for the respective way of activities, social values in family life, social values in political life, social values in cultural life, values in judiciary and so on. So far as liberalization is

concerned, there are different expressions other than liberalization, like globalization, westernization, Washington consensus, and reforms that ultimately converges into a single conclusion namely 'corporate', leading to corporate governance, corporate laws, corporate judiciary, corporate administration and then ultimately corporate loot. Corporate governance means and connotes the removal of shackles and restrictions which the respective governments or states have chosen for protection of their people.

In the post second world war political arena, the protective mechanism became rampant, particularly in countries with government leaning towards left. The corporate or multinational or transnational or international organization with their money and muscle powers wanted to plunder the natural resources, labour resources and markets of third world countries. Now generated and popularized, the corporate culture and corporate values has penetrated through World Bank, World Trade Organisation (WTO) and International Monetary Fund, with its promotion of corporate corruption, and now present in every institution of governance including judiciary.

The corporate lead by American corporate sector enacts our laws, amends them, repeals them. They are even drafted by corporate paid jurists to be passed in our parliament by their cronies or agents. It may be recalled that it was Marx who had said, '*Law is the will of ruling classes, a will whose essential character and dimension are determined by the economical*

conditions of the existing society'. Corruption becomes the order of the day and systems are operated in such a way that it slowly becomes incentive even to large scale corruption and scandals. These experiences and observations indicate that the corporate sector is successful in converting judiciary into corporate judiciary, as well as corporate controlled judiciary which in turn becomes corruptive judiciary.

The present character of judiciary in India is nothing but the reflection of these liberal trends in its culture and values. Judicial standards and accountability Bill 2010, tabled in the Lok Sabha in December, aiming to replace the judges (inquiry) act 1968 will finally adorn the statute book as an ornament, and not something practicable. In such a situation, can we eradicate out corruption?

Yes, we can root out corruption in judiciary but then we have to fight and defeat corporate governance. Judge Posner had put it interestingly when he said, "If you are worried that lions are eating too many zebras, you don't say to the lions, you are eating too many zebras. You have to build a fence around the lions. If you are worried that judiciary is corruptive, you don't say to the judge, you are corruptive, you have to build a fence around them. The fence is the rule of people, not corporate rule.

Let us defeat corporate sector and root out corruption in judiciary. Let everyone get organised, launch agitation and fight corruption in all walks of life including judiciary.

Courtesy : S Balan, New Delhi

DR FOR PENSIONERS

	Nov-10	Dec-10	Jan-11	Feb-11	Mar-11	Apr-11
All India CPI (IW) Base 2001=100	182	185	188	185	185	186
% age Increase	50.81	51.97	53.12	54.20	55.28	56.43

Contributed by J N Uppal, Dy Director (Retd), CSO, Min of Planning
C-26, Amar Colony, Lajpat Nagar-IV, New Delhi - 110 024 - Tel - 2644 8938 (R)



**Shamsher Bahadur Singh
 CENTENARY
 1911 - 1993
 (Article @ pp- 13-15)**

WHITHER LEFT ?



(Article @ pp- 11-12)

**PRINTER'S DEVIL
 & CORRECTION**

The Printer's Devil, somehow, crept in the Table @ p24-B.P.-05/2011. The inconvenience caused to our esteemed Members is regretted. The correct version is given below:-

Consequent upon the replacement of New Pay Scale for Pr. AG/DG by Ministry of Finance OM dt 21-7-2009 and in r/o posts of Sr. AO, AO, AAO & SO, as per the clarification of para 4.2 of 6th CPC made by DOPT OM dt 11-2-2009, the respective minimum basic pension and family pension would be as under :

Sl. No.	Designation	Pay Band	Revised Pay Band	Grade Pay	Monthly Basic Pension	Family Pension
3.	Pr. AG/DG	37400- 67000	67000- 79000	Nil	33500	20100
8.	Sr. AO	15600- 39100	9300- 34800	5400	7350	4410
9.	AO	9300- 34800	9300- 34800	4800	7050	4230
10.	AAO	9300- 34800	9300- 34800	4600	6950	4170
10.	SO	9300- 34800	9300- 34800	4200	6750	4050

WHY POLITICIANS HATE CIVIL SOCIETY

- Unelected activists stealing Parliament's right to make laws, undercutting role of parliamentarians
- Demands like an all-powerful Lokpal directly impact political-bureaucratic class and the status quo
- Rigid deadlines, fasts unto death to press home issues are akin to holding government to ransom
- Streetcorner populism of activists runs counter to both the demands of realpolitik and tenets of democracy

Courtesy : OUTLOOK Weekly, New Delhi

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