


**33rd Meeting of Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA)
under the chairmanship of Hon'ble MOS(PP)
22nd February, 2024 (11.30 am), Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**

Comments on New Agenda Items

S.no.	<u>New Agenda Items</u>	<u>Comments of Ministry/ Department</u>
(33.1)	<p><u>Grant of Fixed Medical Allowance (FMA) to the Widowed/Divorced/Unmarried daughters who are in receipt of family pension</u></p> <p>As per Railway Board letter RBE No. 69/2014 dated 07.07.2014, Widowed/Divorced/Unmarried daughters who are in receipt of family pension are entitled for grant of FMA. On the contrary, as per Railway Board letter no. PC-V/2022/A/MED/2/FMA/(E) dated 27.10.2022 widowed/divorced/unmarried daughters who in receipt of family pension are not eligible for Retired Employees Liberalised Health Scheme (RELHS). Accordingly, they are not entitled for FMA.</p> <p>Ministry of Railway is requested to examine the matter so that widowed/divorced/unmarried daughters could also avail the benefit of Health Scheme/Allowance</p> <p align="right">(Action: Ministry of Railways)</p>	<p><u>Ministry of Railways</u></p> <p>The matter is under examination in Pay Commission Directorate of Railway Board.</p> 
(33.2)	<p>Railways fare concession must be allowed to Senior Citizens/Pensioners as per pre-Covid period.</p> <p align="right">(Action: Ministry of Railways)</p>	<p><u>Ministry of Railways</u></p> <p>Government gave subsidy of Rs.59,837 crores on passenger tickets in 2019-20. This amounts to concession of 53% on an average, to every person, travelling to Railways. This subsidy is continuing for all passengers. Further, concession beyond this subsidy amount are continuing only for the categories Divyangjans, Students and Patients. At present, there is no proposal in Traffic Commercial (Passenger Marketing) Directorate of Railway Board to restore concession to Senior Citizens.</p>

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(33.3)	<p><u>Grant of increment to the retiring employees on the date of their retirement, if the date of their increment follows their date of retirement - Amendment to the rules governing grant of increment & extension of the amended rule to pensioners as a one-time measure</u></p> <p>Grant of increment to a pensioner is contrary to the personnel policy of the Government” may perhaps be because of the reason that the Rules governing grant of increment stipulate that the employee must be on duty on the date on which he earns an increment and if the employee is not on duty, the increment shall be granted from the date of resumption of duty. Therefore, if the date of increment of an employee falls on the next date of his retirement, the increment that would have been allowed to him but for his retirement is not granted for the reason that the employee, having retired from service, is not on duty on the date on which the increment would have been otherwise granted to him.</p> <p>The provisions of the rules, as they stand now, have made such employees ineligible for increment even after rendering 365 days of service after earning the last increment. The Rules on grant of increment have undergone many changes and modifications have been made in the past on several occasions, which were to the advantage of the employees and the retiring employees as well. Hence, suitable amendment may be considered</p> <p>(Action: Department of Personnel & Training)</p>	<p><u>DoPT</u></p> <p>As per the existing rule provisions regulating annual increment, fulfillment of the following conditions is mandatory for a Government servant to earn the annual increment-</p> <p>(i) the Government servant must be in service on the date on which the increment falls due and;</p> <p>(ii) he should have rendered satisfactory work and displayed good conduct during the one year period preceding the date on which the increment falls due.</p> <p>(ii) Claim for amending the existing rule provisions governing annual increment is apparently based on the Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 11.04.2023 in Civil Appeal No. 2471 of 2023 @ SLP (C) No. 6185/2020-KPTCL VS. CP Mundinamani & Ors. Regarding grant of notional increment on the day following the date of retirement of a Govt. servant, where it was due had the Govt. servant not retired from service a day before. In the said Order, Apex Court decided that the Division Bench of the Karnataka High Court has rightly directed the appellants (Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd.) to grant one annual increment which the petitioners earned on the last day of their service for rendering services during the preceding one year from the date of retirement with good behavior and efficiently. Later on, Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 19.05.2023 dismissed SLP (C) No. 4722/2022- UOI & Anr. Vs. M.Siddaraj Filed by M/o Railways with the observation that the issue raised therein is squarely covered by judgement rendered in Civil Appeal No. 2471 of 2023. Thereafter, several petitions filed before Hon'ble Supreme Court, High Courts and Tribunals on the subject matter were disposed on similar lines.</p>

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		<p>(iii) It may be pertinent to mention that there was no reference to the relevant Fundamental Rules governing release of annual increment in the Order dated 11.04.2023 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court referred above. Apart from this, the said Order also necessitated examination of a few aspects emanating therefrom which need to be addressed. The matter was examined and Ld. Attorney General for India was consulted in this regard. In pursuance thereof efforts are being made to seek clarification from the Hon'ble Supreme Court on the relevant issues-including rule provisions-which need elucidation. Further action, as may be required in the wake of Orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, can be taken on completion on the said exercise.</p>
(33.4)	<p><u>Construction of CGHS Polyclinic/ Hospital at Jammu</u></p> <p>Since, J&K administration has allotted land to CGHS in Jammu, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare may consider construction of a Polyclinic/Hospital on urgent basis.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Action: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare)</p>	<p><u>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</u></p> <p>Additional Director (CGHS), Chandigarh has informed that J&K administration has allotted a land parcel of 4 kanal and 6 malra in the name of Health and Education Department, J&K (Khasra No. 373 of 02 Kanals & 14 Marlas and Khasra No. 374 of 01 Kanal & 12 Marlas) situated a Village Thanger, Tehsil Bahu District, Jammu. The land is yet to be transferred in the name of CGHS. Once, the land is transferred in the name of CGHS, further necessary action for construction of building for CGHS Wellness Centre shall be taken on priority.</p>
(33.5)	<p><u>One time option to CGHS Beneficiaries to choose their ward entitlement based on their Notional Pay in 7th CPC Pay Matrix</u></p> <p>Prior to revision of the rates of subscription and entitlement of wards under CGHS with effect from 1st June 2009 vide MoH&FW O.M.No. S-11011/2/2008-CGHS(P) dated 20.5.2009, <i>Pensioners had an option to choose for payment of CGHS Contribution / ward entitlement based either on last pay drawn</i></p>	<p><u>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</u></p> <p>The CPCs are held periodically and notional revision of pay/pensioners take place from time to time after acceptance of their recommendations. CGHS cards are normally issued to Central Government Pensioners for life time. As per one of the conditions mentioned in Para (iii) of MoHFW OM dated 09.01.2017, the entitlement of</p>

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	<p><i>or their pension.</i> Pensioners who had opted for payment of Contribution based on their pension got lower entitlement of ward than the entitlement based on their last basic pay.</p> <p>After 7th CPC, the rate of CGHS Contribution was revised w.e.f 01.01.2017 based on the levels in the Pay matrix and the ward entitlement on the corresponding basic pay in 7th CPC. Pensioners who are entitled for higher ward entitlement based on their notional Pay in 7th CPC Pay Matrix continue to be eligible for lower ward entitlement since they had opted for determination of their entitlement based on their pension at the time of their retirement/admission to CGHS. It is seen that even in cases where pensioners had opted for determination of their CGHS contribution and ward entitlement on the basis of last pay, they would now be entitled for higher wards viz: Semi-private and Private ward, re-determined with reference to their notional pay under the 7th CPC.</p> <p>A large number of pensioners who have now become entitled to semi-private or private wards in consideration of their Notional Pay under the 7th CPC have been denied their actual entitlement for higher ward for treatment in hospitals since the CGHS Cards issued to them indicate "General Ward" for those who are now entitled for semi-private ward and either General ward or Semi-private ward for those who are now entitled for private ward. Since the CGHS Cards were issued to them at the time of their retirement when the pay scales were low under the previous pay commissions and in respect of some the ward entitlement was determined on pension at their option this anomaly has arisen and needs to be corrected to render justice to such pensioners.</p> <p>It is, therefore, requested that the issue may please be pursued to allow onetime option to Pensioners to opt for re-determination of their ward entitlement based on their notional pay in 7th CPC Pay Matrix, which would make them eligible for higher wards in Private Hospitals empanelled under CGHS.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Action: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare)</p>	<p>pensioners/family pensioners who have already deposited contribution for the lifetime CGHS facility, will not be changed.</p> <p>Moreover, if one time option is extended to such, the reconciling of data and re-issue of new cards and sorting out issues regarding payment of additional subscription, if any, are some of the issues to be addressed and logistics are to be ascertained and it may involve approval of Ministry of Finance.</p> <div data-bbox="938 724 1518 1102" style="text-align: center;"> </div>

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(33.6)	<p><u>Non-Revision of CGHS rates</u></p> <p>The CGHS rates were last revised in 2014. There are about 1900 items in CGHS rate list. Rates of a few items only have been revised recently.</p> <p>Non-revision of rates for nearly a decade has resulted in many empanelled Private Hospitals seeking de-empanelment. Therefore, there is an urgent need to revise the rate of all procedures/ tests /investigations etc., which are commensurate with the increase in the market prices of medicines, medical equipment and treatment procedures over the past several years.</p> <p>Revision of rates will not only encourage more number of private hospitals to seek empanelment but also is likely to motivate some of the private hospitals which had withdrawn from CGHS to come back to its fold. Further delay in revision of CGHS rates, may private empanelled hospitals seeking removal of their names from the list of empanelled hospitals, which would cause untold miseries and great financial hardships to CGHS beneficiaries.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Action: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare)</p>	<p><u>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</u></p> <p>Government has already initiated revision of CGHS package rates. In this direction, following actions have been taken:-</p> <p>(i) Vide OM dated 12.04.2023, CGHS rates for consultation, room rent and ICU charges have been revised.</p> <p>(ii) Vide OM dated, CGHS rates for 36 radiological investigations have been revised.</p> <p>(iii) Vide OM dated 19.12.2023, package rates for 38 Cardiology procedures and inclusion of 2 new Procedures have been done.</p> <p>Revision of CGHS package rates in other specialties is under process. Moreover, it is informed that continuous empanelment process is open and new hospitals are applying for empanelment under CGHS. Nearly, 150 new Health Care Hospitals had been empanelled in the last 6 months.</p>
(33.7)	<p><u>Provision in CPENGRAMS for entering address of grievance registering Pensioners' Associations</u></p> <p>There is no column for furnishing the address of the Pensioners' Association which has registered the grievance while there is a provision for entering address of the Pensioner. Therefore the offices which dispose of the grievances are sending their replies intended for the Pensioners Association to the address of the pensioner. Accordingly, a provision may be made in the grievance registration form for entering the address of the grievance registering pensioners' association also.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Action:-Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare)</p>	<p><u>DoPPW</u></p> <p>CPENGRAMS has the facilities for pensioners associations (PAs) to register the grievance by login into CPENGRAMS by the credentials provided to them. So if, registered associations lodged the grievances through their credentials then their address is automatically captured from the registration details.</p>

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(33.8)	<p><u>Non-indication of Dearness Relief (DR) paid on age related Additional Pension in the SMS on pension credit received by DoT Pensioners in SAMPANN</u></p> <p>Dearness Relief (DR) paid to DoT Pensioners on their age-related additional pension is not being included in the total of DR paid for the month and only the DR admissible/paid on the basic pension is being indicated in the SMS on pension credit being received by DoT Pensioners creating confusion about the actual amount of DR admissible and paid.</p> <p>Hence, it is suggested that the DR admissible on Additional Pension may also be indicated separately by introduction of a new head "DR on Additional Pension" in the SMS.</p> <p>(Action: Department of Telecom)</p>	<p><u>Department of Telecom</u></p> <p>Dearness Relief (DR) paid to DoT Pensioners on their age-related additional pension is being calculated correctly in SAMPANN and also being paid correctly to the pensioners. In respect of issue of non-showing of DR on additional pension in SMS being sent to the pensioners, necessary correction in SMS format is under process and will be rectified soon.</p>
(33.9)	<p><u>Delay in restoration of commutation amount by Pension Disbursing Banks even after completion of 15 years of retirement .</u></p> <p>As per CCS (Pension) Rules, 1981, commutation amount is restored after completion of 15 years. However, it is found that commutation is not restored by Pension Disbursing Banks after 15 years. Excess commutation amount has been recovered even for more than one year. This is happening in respect of pensioners who have retired during 2007 to 2008 due to implementation of 6th CPC. Other Association may have similar problems due to introduction of SPARSH. There is no accountability for excess deduction of commutation amount. Therefore it is requested that excess amount recovered from pension for more than three months be paid to the individual with interest which should be recovered from the dealing officer and officials. If agreed to a letter may kindly be issued to all PDAs and departments.</p> <p>(Action: Ministry of Defence/ CGDA/CPAO/banks)</p>	<p><u>Ministry of Defence/CGDA</u></p> <p>Anomalies arising out of incorrect restoration dates of commutation in cases migrated from banks to SPARSH were taken up with the concerned Banks for providing correct set of dates (start date & restoration date). In 5.27 lakhs records, restoration dates have already been updated on the basis of data received from SBI, while 1.82 lakhs data is under analysis. Data from other banks are also being analysed for updation.</p> <p>Cases having excess recovery of commutation, identified as a result of above updation will be taken up for reversal of excess amount after verification by disbursement authorities.</p> <p><u>CPAO</u></p> <p>CPAO holds review meetings with Pension Disbursing Banks on regular interval to discuss various issues related to timely and accurate disbursement of pension.</p>

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	<p data-bbox="370 191 873 247">ii) <u>Non-payment of additional pension even after completion of 80 years.</u></p> <p data-bbox="370 275 873 390">PDAs like Banks and SPARSH are not paying additional 20% even after completion of 80 years. Suitable instruction may please be issued for compliance of the system.</p> <p data-bbox="428 422 873 478">(Action:- Ministry of Defence/CGDA/CPAO/ Banks)</p>	<p data-bbox="893 153 1369 222">request initiated/updated or approved by HOO/PAO.</p> <p data-bbox="893 247 1377 453">(ii) The additional pension on completion of 80 years of age is not being paid due to non-availability of DOB/incomplete DOB of pensioners or family pensioners. The Department has taken following action in this regard:</p> <p data-bbox="922 485 1377 621">(a) In about, 1.4 lakh cases where only Year of Birth is available,, the year of birth is being converted to DoB as 1st January of next year as per rules/orders.</p> <p data-bbox="922 653 1377 852">(b) The list of missing DoB in about 1.91 lakh cases has been shared with Records Offices for updation. The Department is also updating DoB on case to case basis as per availability based on inputs from pensioners.</p> <p data-bbox="893 884 964 915"><u>CPAO</u></p> <p data-bbox="893 940 1377 1633">CPAO holds review meetings with Pension Disbursing Banks on regular interval to discuss various issues related to timely and accurate disbursal of pension. The Non-payment of additional pension even after completion of 80 years is invariably one of the agenda items. In such meetings, CPAO share the data related to delay/Non-payment of additional pension even after completion of 80 years with the banks and advise them to take corrective measures so that these instances of delay/non-payment of additional pension do not re-occur. CPAO also periodically conduct the internal audit of Pension Disbursing Banks wherein the details of the cases of delay/Non-payment of additional pension even after completion of 80 years are incorporated in the audit report. CPAO has also been holding training programmes for staff of Pension Disbursing Banks on regular interval wherein they are</p>

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	<p data-bbox="381 199 906 262">ii) <u>Non-payment of additional pension even after completion of 80 years.</u></p> <p data-bbox="381 289 906 409">PDAs like Banks and SPARSH are not paying additional 20% even after completion of 80 years. Suitable instruction may please be issued for compliance of the system.</p> <p data-bbox="441 441 906 504">(Action:- Ministry of Defence/CGDA/CPAO/ Banks)</p>	<p data-bbox="928 163 1424 231">request initiated/updated or approved by HOO/PAO.</p> <p data-bbox="928 262 1435 472">(ii) The additional pension on completion of 80 years of age is not being paid due to non-availability of DOB/incomplete DOB of pensioners or family pensioners. The Department has taken following action in this regard:</p> <p data-bbox="958 504 1435 646">(a) In about, 1.4 lakh cases where only Year of Birth is available,, the year of birth is being converted to DoB as 1st January of next year as per rules/orders.</p> <p data-bbox="958 678 1435 888">(b) The list of missing DoB in about 1.91 lakh cases has been shared with Records Offices for updation. The Department is also updating DoB on case to case basis as per availability based on inputs from pensioners.</p> <p data-bbox="928 919 1003 951"><u>CPAO</u></p> <p data-bbox="928 982 1435 1715">CPAO holds review meetings with Pension Disbursing Banks on regular interval to discuss various issues related to timely and accurate disbursal of pension. The Non-payment of additional pension even after completion of 80 years is invariably one of the agenda items. In such meetings, CPAO share the data related to delay/Non-payment of additional pension even after completion of 80 years with the banks and advise them to take corrective measures so that these instances of delay/non-payment of additional pension do not re-occur. CPAO also periodically conduct the internal audit of Pension Disbursing Banks wherein the details of the cases of delay/Non-payment of additional pension even after completion of 80 years are incorporated in the audit report. CPAO has also been holding training programmes for staff of Pension Disbursing Banks on regular interval wherein they are</p>

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		<p>The delay in restoration of commuted amount of pension is invariably one of the agenda items. In such meetings, CPAO share the data related to delay in restoration as well as non-restoration of commuted amount of pension with the banks and advise them to take corrective measures so that these delays do not re-occur. CPAO also periodically conduct the internal audit of Pension Disbursing Banks wherein the details of the cases of non-restoration of commuted portion of pension are incorporated in the audit report.</p> <p>CPAO has also been holding training programmes for staff of Pension Disbursing Banks on regular interval wherein they are explained about the "Scheme for Payment of Pensions to Central Government Civil Pensioners by Authorised Banks" and clarify their doubts on the issues related to pension matters.</p> <p><u>Pension Disbursing Banks (SBI & PNB)</u></p> <p>Commutation is automatically restored after completion of 15 years from the date on which the payment of commuted portion is credited in Pensioner's Account.</p> <p>Further, there are checks and validations in place for deduction of commutation for not more than the period of 15 years.</p>
(33.10)	<p><u>Issues related to SPARSH</u></p> <p>i) <u>Delay in Pension profile Data verification and Upgradation:</u></p> <p>It is observed that Pensioners data verification is not done even after one and half years with SPARSH. In all matters, the portal advices to contact your HOO. Change of name of HOO and address is not done in SPARSH PPOs in spite of several requests, hence, causing undue hardship to Pensioners.</p>	<p><u>Ministry of Defence/CGDA</u></p> <p>(i) _Pensioner data verification is being done when pensioner portal account is created and accordingly user name and password is share to pensioner. However, pensioners are not being provided access to change their office name/financial part. As and when issues are reported, the same are being rectified by PCDA(P) office. HOO being the custodian of service records of pensioners, the Corr. PPO or any data can be notified/updated through</p>

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		<p>explained about the "Scheme for Payment of Pensions to Central Government Civil Pensioners by Authorised Banks" and clarify their doubts on the issues related to pension matters.</p> <p><u>Pension Disbursing Banks (SBI and PNB)</u></p> <p>Automatic payment of additional quantum is already in place on attaining the age of 80 years.</p> <p>Further, any delay in start of additional quantum is mainly due to non-availability of correct Date of Birth (DoB) in PPOs. In such cases, CPPCs take necessary action as per prevailing instructions of respective Pension Sanctioning Authorities.</p>
