



Monthly Journal of
KARNATAKA POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION (R)

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(FORMERLY RMS PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION)

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Registered Office: Pensioners' Bhavan, Telecom Layout, Srirampura Phase II Bengaluru-560064

Working Office: # 165, 4th Main, 3rd Block, 3rd Stage, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru-560 079 Phone: 23230545

e-mail: pensionersbhavan@gmail.com

Website : www.kptpa.org

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| G. Babu President, Ph.: 23220355, 94480 40355 | M.N. Gopinath Vice President Mob: 9480586661 | K.B. Krishna Rao Secretary, Ph.: 23230545 | V. Gopal Joint Secretary Mob : 8197918085 | K.R. Anantha Ramu Treasurer Mob : 9448477129 |
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Paper presented by Comrade K.B. Krishna Rao
Secretary, Karnataka P&T Pensioners' Association, Bengaluru
in the Webinar arranged by AIPRPA CHQ on 25-3-2021 on the topic
"Efficacy of SCOVA & Pensioners' Portal and The Urgent Need to Frame
Recognition Rules for Pensioners' Associations by The Government"

Respected Comrade Chairman, and
Dear Comrades,

It gives me great pleasure to be one of the participants in the seminar today in which a galaxy of great P&T trade union leaders, leaders of other Central Government Organisations and leaders of various Pensioners Associations in the country are present.

I am grateful to Com Ragavendran, G S, AIPRPA CHQ for giving me an opportunity to be amongst you, although not physically, but through the video conferencing. I am

thankful to him for asking me to speak on the subject "EFFICACY of SCOVA & PENSIONERS' PORTAL and the URGENT NEED TO FRAME RECOGNITION RULES FOR PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT"

I am quite aware that I am addressing an enlightened audience comprising of leaders who have championed the cause of employees and pensioners for many decades and have represented them in different forums discussing multifarious issues concerning their welfare.

The subject matter of today's discussion, "Efficacy of SCOVA, Pensioners' Portal and

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the need for Recognition Rules” is too wide, and it may take some time for me to present my views. Please bear with me if I take a little time more. However, I shall, make every effort to place my views on the topic given to me by Com K.R.

Let me first speak about the Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies, SCOVA, in its short form.

Before commenting on its ‘efficacy’ — i.e. its ability to produce the desired or intended result, how effective it is in bringing the results that we hoped for and whether the objectives of establishing a mechanism like that of SCOVA have been accomplished, - today’s topic requires us to take a closer look at these aspects. But, before that, let us first trace the background of its constitution and its objectives.

Separate Department for pensioners

A separate Department viz. “Department of Pension and Pensioners’ Welfare” was constituted to look after the welfare of pensioners by the New government headed by the late Sri Rajeev Gandhi who took over as Prime Minister of India (1984-'89). A dignified name as “Senior Citizens” for those aged 60 years was also coined during this period.

Constitution of SCOVA

SCOVA, was constituted by the Govt. of India, Department of Pension and Pensioners’ welfare in 1986 on the recommendations of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee.

SCOVA – A FORUM

SCOVA is a forum for holding consultation with the stakeholder’s i.e the pensioners through their Associations and concerned Ministries/Departments of the Gol. As a forum, SCOVA provides the Pensioners’ Associations an opportunity for raising issues concerning pensioners’ welfare directly before the concerned Ministries/Departments. It can, therefore, be said that SCOVA is a mechanism

for consultation with, or representation by, the members of the Pensioners’ Associations

Membership of SCOVA

The membership of SCOVA consists of 15 non-official members, represented by the Pensioners’ Associations from various Ministries/Departments/Regions/States etc. of which, 5 will be in the Standing Group and 10 in the Rotating Group. The standing group would serve for three terms of two years each. The Rotating Group would serve for one term of two years and would be eligible for re-selection for one more term.

On the Official side, the Secretary, Department of Pension and Pensioners’ Welfare, is the Convener and Member Secretary. The Department is under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions which is under the charge of the Prime Minister himself, assisted by a Minister of State who is the Chairman and presides over SCOVA meetings. (Dr. Jitendra Singh is the Minister at present) Representatives of various Ministries/Departments of Government of India are its members. Officers not below the rank of Joint Secretary are supposed to attend the meeting. The Ministries/ Departments are

- (1) CPAO
- (2) Department of Posts
- (3) Department of Telecom
- (4) Department of Financial Services
- (5) Department of Expenditure
- (6) Controller General of Defence Accounts
- (7) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- (8) Department of Ex-Service men Welfare
- (9) Ministry of Railways
- (10) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (11) Ministry of AYUSH
- (12) NIC

Nomination of Pensioners Associations to SCOVA

Pensioners Associations identified by DoP&PW for being associated with the

implementation of Web-based Pensioners' Portal under the National E Governance Plan (NeGP), are usually nominated to SCOVA. There are now 44 such identified associations. Out of these 44 associations, 5 are nominated to the standing group to serve for three terms of two years each and 10 associations to the rotating group to serve for one term of two years and would be eligible for re-selection for one more term. So, associations nominated to standing group will be in SCOVA for 6 years and on completion of their terms will be out of SCOVA for another 6 years. Similarly, associations in the rotating group will be in SCOVA for 4 years and on completion of their terms, will be out of SCOVA for another 4 years. Though there is no guarantee that the associations would be nominated again after a break of equal number of years of their membership of SCOVA, there are instances where some associations were nominated again.

Are there any norms for selection of non-official members ie. Pensioners' Associations?

There seem to be none. They are selected at random supposedly by a committee in DOP&PW.

While my submission is not either to belittle or deride any pensioners' association nominated to SCOVA now or in the past, it would be in the larger interest of pensioners, if Associations and Federations of Pensioners' Associations with considerably large membership and have been serving the cause of pensioners for a considerable period of time and have established themselves and their credibility in the comity of pensioners' associations in the country are considered for membership of SCOVA.

I strongly believe that apart from Pensioners' Associations, it is all the more important that the leaders of Unions of Central Government Employees who represent staff side in NC JCM, leaders of the Confederation of Central Government Employees and

Workers(COC) and the leaders who head the Coordination Committees of Pensioners Associations like National Coordination Committee of Pensioners' Associations (NCCPA), who have been steadfast Championing the cause of pensioners are nominated as permanent members of SCOVA.

Representatives of staff side NC JCM were attending the SCOVA meetings till the 26th meeting held on 3.2.2015. Legendary leaders like the Late lamented Com S K Vyas and Com Umraomal Purohit attended the meetings until the 24th meeting. Subsequent 25th & 26th meetings were attended by Com Shiva Gopal Mishra, the present Secretary Staff Side NC JCM. From October 2015 onwards ie., after reconstitution of SCOVA in Aug 2015, JCM is not represented in the meetings.

It is expedient that apart the existing 15 pensioners associations selected by DOP&PW, a set of permanent invitees to the meeting, comprising the representatives of JCM / COC & NCCPA must be added to the list of participants. Among the 15 associations, at least one or two Coordination Committees of Central Government Pensioners' Associations in the country should also be nominated to SCOVA, thereby broad basing SCOVA to facilitate representation to all the stake holders who have been championing the cause of pensioner community.

Objectives

The objectives are

- (1) To provide a feedback on programme implementation of process/programmes of the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare
- (2) To discuss and critically examine the policy initiatives and
- (3) To mobilize voluntary efforts to supplement the Government action
- (4) To promote constructive discussions

Recommendations of the Central Pay Commissions on working of SCOVA

The IV CPC constituted in July 1983 in its report submitted in 1986 has made the following recommendation on the working of the SCOVA:-

“In our view, Pensioners represent manpower, rich in experience and talent, which should be properly used in the nation-building activities. Constitution of SCOVA, therefore, assumes significance. We would however, suggest that Government may examine broad-basing the objectives (ii) and (iii) { (ii). To discuss and critically examine the policy initiatives and (iii) To mobilize voluntary efforts to supplement the Government action} so as to highlight the various problems of the Pensioners, like medical and housing needs, their utilisation in social welfare schemes like adult education, rural development, urban improvement etc.”

The V CPC in its report submitted in Oct 1997 has made the following observations/recommendations, vide para-141.29.

“With a view to providing an effective forum to the Pensioners and their Associations, we feel that SCOVA should meet more frequently and at least once in three months. We are also of the view that SCOVA should be a multi-tier institution and should have the same machinery for implementation of the decisions taken as in the case of JCM, including that of reference to Board of Arbitration, wherever disagreement is recorded and the requirement of going to Parliament where a particular award is not to be implemented by the Government. Unless the SCOVA becomes an effective institution for providing redress of disputes and complaints with respect to Pensionary matters, Courts would continue to be flooded with petitions. The Department of Pension & Pensioners’ Welfare may evolve a suitable mechanism to regulate the number of Pensioners’ Associations and identify effective ones, which only should be consulted on policy matters concerning the Pensioner community.”

VI & VII CPCs did not make any recommendation on SCOVA

Efficacy of SCOVA

Let me now dwell on how effective the mechanism is in producing the desired or intended result. Whether the purposes of establishing a mechanism like that of SCOVA have since been fully accomplished? No doubt, it has definitely provided a forum for pensioners who, otherwise would have been rendered voiceless. I have to say without any hesitation that the voice of pensioners is heard in the meetings as has been experienced by me in the meetings that I have attended. Associations do participate in the discussions and are given an opportunity to speak on the agenda items.

But as a forum, SCOVA has no statutory authority. The decisions taken in the meetings even after a good deal of discussion are not binding on any Department and are not enforceable. It is my experience that in one of the meetings, even after the representative of a department stated that he agrees in principle to the demand raised by the association; the concerned department took years to comply with the demand.

It is, therefore, imperative that SCOVA must be accorded a status like that of JCM and there should be a provision for arbitration in the event of disagreement over a particular issue pursued in SCOVA

Meetings: periodicity and the agenda

In the initial stages of SCOVA, meetings were being held somewhat at close intervals, but without an agenda. Minutes of the Meeting and action taken reports were not circulated. But now meetings are being held once or twice in year or sometimes only once in a year. However, an agenda with the items suggested by the members of SCOVA is taken up for discussion. Minutes and action taken report are being circulated. Minutes are circulated amongst the member associations before being

uploaded on the website. It is important to note that all items/issues suggested by the associations are not included and only some items/issues selected by DoP&PW are taken up for discussion in the meetings. It is understood that there is a committee in DOP&PW which decides on the items/issues which are to be included in the agenda, of course, selected from the items suggested by the associations.

The meetings are held for about 3 hours, usually between 11.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. and the time allotted is rather inadequate considering the number of the agenda items and the importance of the subject. Action taken report on the items of the previous meetings is presented first and fresh items of the day's agenda are taken up later. Due to paucity of time, on some occasions, a detailed discussion on the fresh items, will not be possible and will have to be hurried through.

Suggestion : To facilitate inclusion of all the issues notified by the pensioners' associations in the agenda and to allow meaningful, useful and result oriented discussions without any time constraints, the meetings must be held once in every 3 months, preferably on pre-determined dates, however, subject to change owing to exigencies. The duration of the meeting must be 6 hours in 2 sessions.

Let me now speak on the objectives:

The 1st objective: To provide a feedback on programme implementation of process/programmes of the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare:

The feedback, of course, must come from the pensioners' associations also in addition to that furnished by the official representatives of the Ministries/Departments. A feedback on programme implementation of DOP&PW can be given only by such of the Pensioners 'Associations who are very familiar with the policies enunciated by the government on pension matters and pensioners' welfare.

In the meetings that I have attended, only a few associations were able to provide feedback on implementation of the recommendations of 6th & 7th CPCs and various other orders issued subsequently. More than 6 OMs were issued in connection with implementation of the recommendations of 6th CPC and 4 on 7th CPC. Feedback from the stake holders definitely plays an important role in addressing the inadequacies or deficiencies in a system. And more importantly, the powers that be must lend an ear to the submissions made by the stake holders. It is my experience that in the meetings, pensioners associations are allowed to speak and their submissions are also attentively listened to.

The 2nd objective: To discuss and critically examine the policy initiatives.

The 4th CPC has suggested that Government must examine broad-basing this objective. But as of now, the Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances and Pensions and Dept. of pension, the nodal department, decide on pension policy in consultation with MoF, DoE and other concerned departments. In SCOVA meetings, usually matters concerning implementation of orders already issued and fresh demands regarding pensionery benefits or medical facilities are discussed. It is, therefore, advisable that DoP&PW brings before the forum of SCOVA its pension policy initiatives so that they receive the attention of the pensioners and are subjected to a critical examination by all concerned as enjoined in the objectives of SCOVA.

My suggestion that representatives of NC JCM / COC & NCCPA must be made permanent invitees to the meeting and Pensioners Associations/Federations with large membership base and who have established their credibility over the years, the Coordination Committees of Central Government Pensioners' Associations to which many Pensioners Associations are affiliated to must be nominated to SCOVA, assumes importance

and such a measure is absolutely essential for achieving this important objective.

The 3rd objective: To mobilize voluntary efforts to supplement the Government action

The 4th CPC observed that in their view, Pensioners represent manpower, rich in experience and talent, which should be properly used in the nation-building activities.

The Hon'ble Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh, in many of the SCOVA meetings, praising the services of Pensioners and Pensioners' Associations has called upon pensioners to involve themselves in social work telling them that *they have only retired from service but are not tired*. Some pensioners and associations have volunteered to extend their service under the initiative from the Pension Department titled "SANKALP" which provides a platform for pensioners to access opportunities to them for useful intervention in the society.

Swatch Bharath Abhiyan or Clean India Mission

In Karnataka, CCCGPA, Karnataka & KP&TPA involved themselves in The 'Swatch Bharath Abhiyan' or Clean India Mission, a country-wide campaign initiated by the Government of India, a massive movement that seeks to create a clean India. Pensioners indulged themselves in sweeping of roads, clearing clogged drains and removing hand bills pasted on electric poles and trees. With a view to ensure involvement of general public and students in "Swatchta Jan Andolan", a programme was arranged which included, distribution of prizes to students who have won in Essay Competition, Cleaning and Tree Plantation in and around school campus, procession by students and pensioners around school premises, to bring awareness of Swatch Bharat Mission.

Digital Life Certificate

This is yet another voluntary effort by the associations to supplement the Government action. Many Pensioners' Associations in the

country assisted pensioners, specially the aged and the infirm in submission of their digital life certificates through Jeevan Pramaan Portal from the comforts of their homes. Special DLC camps were held in cities. Even during this present pandemic Covid -19 situations in the country, some associations continued with their service to pensioners and visited the residences of old pensioners who needed help in submission of DLC.

The 4th objective: To promote constructive discussions

Here I should say that discussions are allowed in the meetings. Whenever a representative of the associations wishes to make any submission on the agenda items, he is allowed to speak and listened to also. The objective is to promote discussion. Hence it is necessary that the representatives are encouraged to actively participate in the discussion.

CONCLUSION ON SCOVA

In conclusion of my submissions on SCOVA, I would like to emphasise that

1. SCOVA should be broad based with nominations made to it from the associations/federations well-established and with large membership base & Coordination Committees of Central Government Pensioners' Associations. Apart from the pensioners' representatives, nominees of JCM/ COC and the NCCPA must be permanent invitees to the meetings.
2. There must be well defined norms for nominating pensioners' Associations instead of selection at random.
3. SCOVA must be accorded a status like that of JCM and there should be a provision for arbitration in the event of disagreement over a particular issue pursued in SCOVA.
4. Meetings must be held once in every three months and at least for 6 hours in two sessions

To be continued in the next issue

Wage Revision for BSNL Employees – Govt Clarifies the reason for not giving effect to pay revision

Gol, Ministry of Communications, Department of Telecommunications

RAJYA SABHA : un starred question no. 25 answered on 18th march, 2021

Wage Revision for BSNL employees

2570 Shri M. Shanmugam:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state?

- a) when was wage revision last made in BSNL for its employees and since when it is due
- b) the reason for not giving effect to wage revision despite many employees having taken VRS
- c) by when the wage revision will be given effect to
- d) whether the pension of retired employees would also be revised in view of persistent demand from them and
- e) if so, the details there of?

Answer

Minister of State for Communications, Education and Electronics & Information Technology (Shri Sanjay Dhotre)

(a) to (c) Wage revision for executive & non-executive employees of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) was made with effect

from 01.01.2007. Next wage revision is due with effect from 01.01.2017. However, BSNL has been incurring losses since 2009-10. BSNL does not fulfil the criteria under affordability clauses as per Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) guidelines dated 03.08.2017 on pay revision in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) w.e.f. 01.01.2017. Therefore, the pay revision in BSNL has not been considered due to its poor financial condition and continuous losses. BSNL continues to incur loss despite many employees opting for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS).

(d) & (e) Pension revision in case of BSNL IDA pensioners is intrinsically linked with pay revision of serving employees to avoid anomaly of pension amount between present and future retirees of the same status and grade. Accordingly, case of pension revision of employees permanently absorbed in BSNL will have to await implementation of 3rd Pay Revision Commission (PRC) in BSNL.

CGHS : Plastic Cards

For the attention of the beneficiaries who have not yet applied for Plastic Cards

In the CGHS Advisory/Grievance Committee held with the CMO I/C, CGHS WC No.10 C V Raman Nagar, the CMO informed the Committee Members, who are representing Pensioners' Associations that, many beneficiaries are still using the old paper cards and requested that such beneficiaries may be advised to submit application for issue of new plastic card in consideration of many facilities/ benefits available to plastic card holders. Therefore, all such beneficiaries are requested to apply for issue of new plastic card.

Notional Increment for Pensionery Benefits to those who had retired from Service after rendering one year service from the date of drawal of the last increment - update

The Hon'ble Supreme Court, - vide its order dated 5.4.2021, - has stayed the order passed by CAT Bangalore which has allowed the application of Sri M. Siddaraj, Railway Pensioner, seeking grant of notional increment for pensionery benefits.

Details of the case are as follows

Application filed by Sri M. Siddaraj, Railway Pensioner, before CAT Bangalore vide OA No.170/ 00677/ 2019, praying for passing of an order to grant him a notional increment for pensionery benefits since he has retired on 30.6.2014 after completion of one year service from the date of his last increment drawn on 1.7.2013, was allowed by CAT Bangalore in its order dated 18.12.2019.

The Government filed a writ petition before the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka, Dharwad Circuit Bench challenging the order of the CAT Bangalore.

High court, in its order dated 22.10.2020 vide WP No.146967 /2020 (S-CAT), allowed the order of CAT Bangalore.

Government filed SLP in the Supreme Court challenging the order of High Court.

The Supreme Court, on 5.4.21, has stayed the order passed by the CAT Bangalore in this case.

It may be recalled that, in the virtual meeting called by CCCGPA, held on 11.4.2021, in which 100 pensioners participated, it was decided that the Pensioners must file, individually, an application before the CAT since it is not advisable for either the CCCGPA or any Pensioners' Association filing application before CAT. Further, it was also advised that the aggrieved pensioners of Central Government and the aggrieved pensioners of Autonomous/ Statutory Bodies of Central Government have to approach the CAT or the High Court, as the case may be, separately to the Administrative authorities concerned with a request to grant notional increment, citing Supreme Court order

in Ayyamperumal case. They have to file the case only with a copy of the reply received from their Administrative Authorities. If they do not receive reply from their Administrative Authorities even after six months, they can approach the Court or the Tribunal as the case may be.

But, in view of the latest development in the issue, ie. stay of the order of CAT Bangalore in M.Siddaraj case by the Supreme Court on 5.4.2021, it needs to be considered whether the pensioners should go ahead and send representation to the administrative authorities or should wait for disposal of the case by the Supreme Court. Therefore, legal opinion was sought from Sri P. Kamalesan, Advocate, who addressed the participants in the virtual meeting on 11.4.2021 and he has stated in his reply to our message that :

- a) Let the pensioners submit their representations to the authorities concerned as already decided in the meeting on 11.4.21.
- b) Stay of an order in itself is not the final decision
- c) Stay order may not influence the decisions of High Court and the writ petition may be disposed subject to outcome of the SLP before the Supreme Court.
- d) Since in the case of Siddaraj, the order of CAT Bangalore has already been implemented the stay becomes infructuous.

In view of the above legal opinion, all the interested pensioners may write to the authorities concerned with a request to grant them notional increment for pensionery benefits as already decided in the virtual meeting dated 11.4.2021.

A draft of the representation to be submitted in this connection is given in the next page, which may be of some use in sending letters by the pensioners concerned.

S. Radhakrishna
Gl. Secretary

K.B. Krishna Rao
Chairman

From

Date:

To
The _____

Sir/Madam,

Subject: Grant of notional increment for pensionary benefits for those employees who have retired after rendering one year service from the date of drawal of the last increment

I wish to write to your good self that I have retired on _____ from the post /cadre of _____ from the office of _____ from the pay scale of Rs. _____ / Pay band with Grade Pay Rs. _____/ Pay level _____

2. The last pay drawn was Rs. _____ on which my pensionary benefits were computed and paid to me after my retirement.

3. I had drawn my last annual increment to the stage of Rs. _____ on _____ and would have drawn my next increment to the stage of Rs. _____ on _____ but for my retirement on _____, that is on the date following the date of annual increment.

4. Many pensioners who had retired after one year service from the date of drawal of their last increment, filed applications before the Central Administrative Tribunals (CAT) praying for issuance of an order directing the authorities concerned to grant them notional increment for pensionary benefits. The applications were allowed by CAT and the appeals filed by the government challenging the CAT orders were dismissed by the High Courts and the Supreme Court.

5. I would like to quote here as a reference, the case of Sri Ayyamperumal, whose writ petition filed before the High Court of Madras vide W.P.No.15732 of 2017, was allowed and the HC passed an order on 15.09.2017 directing the Department of Central Excise and Customs from which he had retired, to give him one notional increment for the purpose of pensionary benefits in consideration of his service during the period from 01.07.2012 to 30.06.2013, as he had completed one full year of service, though his increment fell on 01.07.2013. The Review petition filed by the government before the Hon'ble Supreme Court was dismissed by the order of SC in R.P.(C) No. 1731/2019 in S.L.P. (C) No.22008/2018 dated 8-8-2019.

6. I earnestly request your good self to grant me one notional increment for pensionary benefits since I am also eligible for the same in view of the judicial orders passed regarding the above subject, and because I had also served for one year after drawing my last increment as stated in para 3 above.

7. I request that necessary order may kindly be issued at the earliest

Thanking you,

Our Readers Write

This month's magazine is very much informative. Brief narration on Sri N. Bhaskaran, eulogising his dynamism as a reputed trade union leader & the great strides he made in his yeomen service to the pensioners is highly laudable.

Also in the brief sketch, the literary activities of the versatile writer KKG, are nicely narrated and he gets exposed to all members of our association. Kuduos to Sri KBK Rao

M. Ramiah LM 3

March 2021 issue of Pensioners Champion is devoted to Sri Bhaskaran. Tributes galore. Every word of tribute to this godly personality not only impressive but also deserving. I have read it over and over again. His yeomen efforts for the working class. Yet he is very quiet never aspiring for name or fame. You hardly find one in millions. I don't find words to express my deep sentiments and respects for him. You as secretary have brought out his qualities and services in just two decades very vividly. on my part, I sincerely pray Almighty to bestow upon him and your good self healthy long life, happiness and peace.

I offer my gratitude for bringing to light all he did and continue doing. The biggest achievement no bigger monument other than our Pensioners Bhavan building itself speaks volumes for him.

May God give you health and peace to carry on with the Assn. so that we can reap benefits. I am personally proud of Bhaskaran and your goodself. A humble tribute to both of you

Attavar Yoganand, Pune, ALM 644

Thanks to KP&TPA for publishing the photos of Sri Bhaskaran being honoured by Karnataka Circle RMS Unions, by Sri KKG presenting the book dedicated in his honour and Bhaskaran's profile.

I was overwhelmed to see the photographs of Sri Bhaskaran, whom I hold in high esteem. Reading his profile, I could recollect the days when he, as the Circle Secretary, lead the RMS Unions to greater heights. His services for the cause of Welfare of P&T workers, unmindful of the travails he had to face while heading the union and later on while establishing the two great organisations, the Karnataka P&T Pensioners Association and the CCCGPA Karnataka, shall be etched in the memory of many of his admirers like me.

I thank Sri K.K. Gangadharan, for dedicating the book on the life of Sri E.K. Nayanar translated by him from Malayalam to Kannada to Sri Bhaskaran and for presenting the first copy of the book to him. Congratulations to KKG for winning many literary awards for his contributions to Kannada Literature.

My thanks to Sri K.B.K. Rao, Secretary for his sincere efforts in finding out my present address and sending me March 2021 issue of our monthly journal which, in addition to the write-up on Sri Bhaskaran, carries a lot of information useful not only for us but also to sister unions and associations.

Bandigaiah, Superintendent RMS(Retd) LM 541

I thank the association for publishing the photos of Com Bhaskaran and his profile. A good gesture on the part of RMS Unions to felicitate a stalwart who lead the employees union for decades undeterred by the punishments he had to face for leading the employees strikes. Support extended to Com Bhaskaran by his wife Smt. T. Malathi, throughout his services to the working class and pensioners is commendable. KKG honouring Com Bhaskaran by dedicating his book on E.K. Nayanar, to the veteran leader of P&T Trade Union movement and the Central Pensioners deserves appreciation.

B.L. Channappa LM 838

Pensioners Champion journal for March 2021 carries the profile and the 4 decade long journey of Com.N.Bhaskaran in P&T Trade Union movement and Pensioners movement in the state. It is very informative. Profile of Com.K.K.G, who has translated the book in Malayalam on the life of Com. E.K.Nayanar, is also informative. Literary Work of K.K.G. is laudable and every member of our association should be proud of Com. K.K.G. who is one of our members and also encourage him in his literary journey.

The memoir of Kannada poet Shri N.S.Lakshminarayana Bhatta, written by Com.K.K.G. is very fine and all Kannadigas should feel proud of the Late Shri.N.S.L. The Association has paid its homage to the Late Com.M Krishnan, former Secretary General, NFPE, an illustrious leader who strived hard for the welfare of the working class in the country.

T R Narayana LM 1070

Write up on Sri N Bhaskaran is quite informative. I feel proud for dedicating the book on the life Com E K Nayanar, former Chief Minister of Kerala on such a great stalwart of the employees and pensioners movement in Karnataka. Hats off to you Sir, for the write up.

K.K.G.LM 1717

Sri S.M. Vittal Rao, turns 90



Sri Vittal Rao, former Treasurer KP&TPA who served the association in that capacity for more than 20 years and now as its Internal Auditor, has turned 90.

He celebrated his birthday differently by presenting gifts to his relatives and friends instead of receiving gifts from them. Sri Rao, stands out from the usual milieu in observing such events. In that, for celebrating his grand daughter's birthday every year, he has chosen a government primary school where hundreds of students assemble, light lamps, cut cake and present cultural programmes. He distributes gifts, sweets, fruits, reading and writing materials to the students and the teaching staff in memory of his grand daughter on her birthday. And he is now into the 26th year of such noble act worthy of emulation

Sri Vittal Rao's contribution in collecting donations for the associations 2 buildings named 'Pensioners' Bhvan', is great and praise worthy. He telephoned hundreds of his former colleagues, friends, acquaintances and even relatives which helped the association in completing the construction of the buildings as planned.

He himself has so far donated Rs. 1,40,000 for the building fund.

KP&TPA extends its warm greetings to Sri Vittal Rao and wishes him healthy and a long life to continue with his charitable works for many more years.

Reimbursement of cost of OPD Medicines: special sanction in view of covid-19 - till 31st July 2021

Inview of the Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19), all out efforts are made by the Government to contain its impact by instituting measures at community as well as at individual level.

2. In this regard the undersigned is directed to draw attention to the OM of even number dated 27.03.2020, 29.04.2020, 29.05.2020, 24th August 2020, 30th September 2020 and 29.12.2020 vide which an option has been provided to CGHS beneficiaries getting medicines for Chronic diseases, to purchase medicines based on the prescription held (prescribed by CGHS Medical Officers/CGHS Specialists /other Govt. Specialists/ Specialist of empanenelled hospitals) till 28th February 2021, irrespective of Non-Availability certificate from CGHS or otherwise. However, several representations are received in the Ministry seeking extension of the period in view of the COVID-19 Pandemic resurgence.

3. The matter has been reviewed by the Ministry and it is now decided, in continuation of the earlier OM on the subject, that CGHS beneficiaries getting medicines for Chronic diseases shall be permitted to purchase medicines based on the prescription held (prescribed by CGHS Medical Officers /CGHS Specialists /other Govt. Specialists/ Specialist of empanelled hospital) till 31st July, 2021 on the same conditions as per the earlier OM dated 27.03.2020. It is also clarified that the CGHS Wellness Centres are functional and CGHS beneficiaries also have the option to collect medicines through GGHS wellness centres as per normal practice, instead of purchasing from market.

4. These orders shall be valid from date of issue till 31st July 2021.

5. Issued with the approval of integrated Finance Division, MoH FW vide CD No 62 dated 15.04.2021.

Dr. Sanjay Jain, Director, CGHS

Dept of
Posts

Counting of induction training period for TBOP/BCR

Gol, Ministry of Communications, Department of Posts (SPN-II Section)
File No.X - 44/2/2011-SPN-II Dated 30th March,2021

To
All Heads of Circles

Counting of induction training period for financial upgradation under TBOP/ BCR Schemes in accordance with Directorate's letter 44/2/2011-SPB-II dated 05.05.2016

Sir/ Madam,

I am directed to refer to this office letter of even number dated 18.11.2020 wherein guidelines were issued for counting of induction training period of such officials whose documentary proofs are not available.

2. Service Association has brought to the notice of the Directorate that some of the divisions are insisting for convening of DPC to prepone the effective date of TBOP / BCR in terms of letter dated 05.05.2016 read with letter dated 18.11.2020.

3. It is clarified that (in respect of) officials whose training period is required to be counted in terms of letter of even No. dated 05.05.2016 read with later dated 18.11.2020, there is no need to convene DPC again if TBOP/ BCR was already granted.

C.Muthuraman, Asst.Director General (SPN)

OBITUARY

Sri A.C. Abdul Kareem, LM 113, former President, All India RMS & MMS Employees Union Group-C, Karnataka Circle, aged 92, passed away on 15-4-2021. A veteran leader of RMS Employees in the state, he played a great role in successful observance of the 1960 and 1968 strikes. He was associating himself with the activities of RMS unions even at his ripe age of 90+ years. A regular subscriber for the association's journal 'Pensioners' Champion', used to evince interest in the activities of KP&TPA. With his sad demise, the RMS Unions and KP&TPA have lost a great leader who championed the cause of employees and pensioners welfare. The association mourns the death of Com A.C. Abdul Kareem and pays its respectful homage to the departed leader.

Sri P.Seshagiri Rao, former President, All India RMS & MMS Employees Union Group-C, Karnataka Circle, passed away on 16-4-2021. Even after retirement he used to actively participate in the Divisional and Circle conferences of the union and contribute to the discussions on various issues.

Sri Mahabalashetty G.M. LM 843, Retd. SSPOs, Gulbarga Dn., expired on 15-2-2021 at the age of 83 years. He leaves behind his wife, one son and 2 daughters.

Sri S. Srinivasan, ALM 746, retired Office Supdt. National Sample Survey, Bangalore expired on 23-3-2021 at the age of 87 years.

Sri A K Raghothamachar, LM 384, retired AGM, MTNL Mumbai expired on 16-4-2021 at the age of 83 years.

Sri H N Ashwathanarayana LM 1601, Retd. BCR Stg Asst., Bangalore City RMS, expired on 17-4-2021 at the age of 73 years.

Com. Y. Nagabhusanam, Veteran leader of RMS & MMS Employees Union, who had held many positions in the Union, including those of the Circle Secretary R-III, AP Circle, officer bearer R-III CHQ, JCM Regional Council Secretary and in Pensioners' movement as Organising Secretary, NCCPA CHQ & In AIPRPA, as Founder State Genl. Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Circle, expired on 20.4.2021 due to the infectious disease Covid-19 at Guntur hospital.

The Executive Committee of K P&T PA conveys its heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved families.

ಅಗಲಿದ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ 'ಜೀವಿ'ಗೆ ಭಾವಪೂರ್ಣ ಶ್ರದ್ಧಾಂಜಲಿ

ಕನ್ನಡ ನಾಡಿನ ಖ್ಯಾತ ಸಂಶೋಧಕ ನಿಘಂಟು ತಜ್ಞ ನಾಡೋಜ ಪ್ರೊ. ಜಿ. ವೆಂಕಟಸುಬ್ಬಯ್ಯ ಅವರು ತಮ್ಮ 108ನೇ ವಯಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಧನರಾದರು. ಪ್ರೊ. ಜಿ.ವಿ. ಅವರು ಖ್ಯಾತ ವಿದ್ವಾಂಸರು ಹಾಗೂ ಜನಪ್ರಿಯ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರಾಗಿದ್ದರು. ಅವರು ಮೈಸೂರಿನ ಮಹಾರಾಜ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸುವರ್ಣ ಪದಕದೊಡನೆ ಎಂ.ಎ. ಪದವಿ, ನಂತರ ಬಿ.ಟಿ. ಪದವಿ ಗಳಿಸಿ, ಮಹಾರಾಜ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರಾಗಿ ವೃತ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ಆರಂಭಿಸಿ, ನಂತರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ವಿಜಯಾ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಾಧ್ಯಾಪಕರಾಗಿ, ಪ್ರಿನ್ಸಿಪಾಲರಾಗಿ, ಸೇವೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿ ನಿವೃತ್ತರಾಗಿದ್ದರು.



ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಪರಿಷತ್ತಿನ ಕನ್ನಡ ನಿಘಂಟುವಿನ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಸಂಪಾದಕರಾಗಿ, ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಪರಿಷತ್ತಿನ

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಾಗಿ, ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಪರಿಷತ್ತಿಗೆ ಅಖಿಲ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯನ್ನು ತಂದುಕೊಟ್ಟು, ನಡೆದಾಡುವ ನಿಘಂಟು, ಎಂದು ಪ್ರಸಿದ್ಧಿ ಪಡೆದ ಹಿರಿಮೆ ಪ್ರೊ. ಜಿ.ವಿ. ಅವರದು.

ಶ್ರೀಯುತರ ನಿಧನದಿಂದಾಗಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾರಸ್ವತ ಲೋಕ ವಿದ್ವಾಂಸರೊಬ್ಬರನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ಕನ್ನಡ ಭಾಷೆ ಒಬ್ಬ ಶ್ರೇಷ್ಠ ಭಾಷಾ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಿಯನ್ನು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಂಡಂತಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅಂಚೆ ಮತ್ತು ದೂರ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಪಿಂಚಣಿದಾರರ ಸಂಘವು ಅಗಲಿದ ನಿಘಂಟು ತಜ್ಞ ಪ್ರೊ. ಜಿ. ವೆಂಕಟಸುಬ್ಬಯ್ಯ ಅವರಿಗೆ ತನ್ನ ಹೃತ್ಪೂರ್ವಕ ಶ್ರದ್ಧಾಂಜಲಿಯನ್ನು ಅರ್ಪಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.

- ಕೆ.ಬಿ. ಕೃಷ್ಣರಾವ್, ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ

APPEAL FOR DONATIONS FOR THE BUILDING FUND

We appeal to our **Members who have not yet paid** their contribution to the building fund please to remit their donation. 53rd list of donations is published in this issue.

Amount may please be remitted by *crossed cheque* payable to "Karnataka P&T Pensioners' Association". Cheques may please be sent to: K.R.Anantha Ramu, No 1158,7th Main, 7th Block, HMT Layout, Vidyanarayapura, Bangalore-560097. (Mob: 9448477129) **or**

Preferably, be directly credited to the Association's Bank Account:

Name: Karnataka P&T Pensioners' Association;

Bank: State Bank of India, Branch: HMT Layout branch, Vidyanarayapura, Bangalore

Current Account No. **64209078453, IFSC:SBIN 0040659**

INCOME TAX EXEMPTION: 50% of the amount of donation made to K P&T PA, is eligible for deduction in the gross total Income of the assessee under Section 80-G of Income Tax Act.

Donation for the Building Fund - 53rd List

| SI No. | Name Sri/Smt. | Membership No. | Amount Rs. | Receipt No. | Progressive Total of donation |
|--------|--------------------|----------------|------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 1483 | M.M.Hanji | 1286 | 100000 | 4869 | 1,50,001 |
| 1484 | M T Rangarajan | 1974 | 25000 | 4849 | 1,10,000 |
| 1485 | Arundathi Kulkarni | 2691 | 6000 | 4859 | |

Karnataka P&T Pensioners' Assn is grateful to the following members whose contribution to the building fund has reached Rs. ONE LAKH and above during March/April 2021 and sincerely thanks them for their generous donations.

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Mahadevappa M Hanji | Retd. Postmaster | Rs. 1,50,001 |  |
| M T Rangarajan | Retd. Dy. Accountant General | Rs. 1,10,000 |  |
| B.Sadashiva Rao | Retd. IPoS, Ex-President, KP&TPA | Rs. 1,00,000 |  |
| V Gopal | Joint Secretary, KP&TPA | Rs. 1,00,000 |  |

With the above 4, the total number of members donating Rs. One Lakh and above has reached 9. Photographs of the other 5 members were published earlier.

Subscription received for Pensioners' Champion During March-April 2021

| Rs.150/- Smt./Sri | Rs.150/- Smt./Sri | Rs.300/- Smt./Sri | Rs.450/- Smt./Sri |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 1457 N.Manjunatha Adiga | 2939 K. Chidananda | 2407 N. Murthy | 945 N.L. Balakrishna (March 21) |
| 1894 N.Subbaiah | S-283 B.M. Kulkarni | 2543 N. Venkataraman | 954 T. Suryanarayana |
| 2536 K.Jayapala | Rs.200/- Smt./Sri | 2595 Jalaja Keshava Devadiga | 2191 S.S. Manjunath |
| 2686 M.Shekarappa | 2016 R.D. Dixit | 2665 Vinayak Naik | 2608 T.S. Muralidhara |
| 2687 A.Kanikyaraj | XXX 26 AJIt Raj ? | 2771 Srimaltesh.D. Kamanahalli | Rs.500/- Smt./Sri |
| 2688 S.Ramani | S-145 M.G.Rayakar | 2802 Pasala Lazer Nirmal Kumar (Feb 21) | 2058 Venkatachalapathy |
| 2697 Eswara Rao Kalekar | Rs.300/- Smt./Sri | Rs.400/- Smt./Sri | 2635 A. Ananda |
| 2776 B.Balasubramanyam | 879 C.K.Krishnamurthy | S-341 K.Bhaskar (Feb 21) | Rs.600/- Smt./Sri |
| 2780 P.Hussain (Feb 21) | 2118 M.R.V.Nath | Rs.450/- Smt./Sri | 1298 B.S. Jayaram |
| 2787 N.R.Ramachandra (Feb 21) | 1748 R.Sundaram | 988 N L Krishna (March 21 delete) | Rs.900/- Smt./Sri |
| 2813 N.Srikanta Karaba | 1944 D.Rangaswamy | | 2662 B.S. Wama |
| 2914 Parvathi Parameswaran | 2057 A. Lawrence | | |
| | 2377 B.N. Sampathkumar | | |

We Welcome the Following Newly Enrolled Members

| Sl.No. | Name (Smt./Sri) | Designation & Office in which last worked | Type & No. |
|--------|-----------------------|--|------------|
| 1 | S.Sukhendra Rao Jadav | Mechanic, Grade II, Mail Motor Service, B'lore | LM 3064 |
| 2 | K.Jayakumar | Mechanic, Grade II, Mail Motor Service, B'lore | LM 3065 |
| 3 | B.Zaffruddin | Driver, Grade I, Mail Motor Service. B'lore | LM 3066 |
| 4 | P.Radhika | Sortiing Assistant, MACP II, Bangalore City RMS, B'lore | LM 3067 |
| 5 | C.Harry Charles | Section Supervisor, O/o Chief Postmaster General, B'lore | LM 3068 |
| 6 | D.B.Krishna | Assistant Superintendent, Archaeological Survey of India, B'lore | ALM 3069 |
| 7 | Vishwanath Rao | Asstt. Head Record Officer(Accts) HSG II, B'lore Stg. Division, B'lore | LM 3070 |
| 8 | S.Anthony Dass | Sorting Postman, General Post Office, B'lore | LM 3071 |
| 9 | R.Hariprakash | Sorting Postman, General Post Office, B'lore | LM 3072 |
| 10 | S.V.Govindaiah | Sorting Postman, General Post Office, B'lore | LM 3073 |
| 11 | H.N.Lokesh | Sorting Postman, General Post Office, B'lore | LM 3074 |

LM: Life Member

ALM: Associate Life Member

BSNL IDA

IDA From 1-1-2021 : 171.5 % (6.1% increase from Oct 2020 rate of 165.4 %) FROZEN vide DPE OM dated 19-11-2020

IDA From 1-4-2021 : 170.5 % (1% decrease from January 21 rate of 171.5%) FROZEN vide DPE OM dated 19-11-2020

Central Government Holidays in MAY 2021

1. Id-UI-Fitr : 14th May, Friday

2. Buddha Poornima : 26th May, Wednesday

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SUBSCRIPTION AMOUNT CREDITED TO ASSOCIATION'S BANK ACCOUNT KEPT IN SUSPENSE ACCOUNT FOR WANT OF DETAILS OF THE REMITTERS

The following amounts received for renewal of subscriptions for the journal could not be identified with the membership numbers. Particulars as they appear in association's bank account are furnished below.

1. 25/11/2020 SYNB/0001201*P201125128400184*PRATIBHA.S.MATH Rs.150
2. 04/12/2020 INB IMPS0/UA0334614726/SBIN transfer from 35714196027 Ms. VANITHA S Rs.150
3. 17/12/2020 UPI/CR/035220072399/M A MUR/SBIN/mamurthy 63/UPI transfer from 5099091162095
4. 19/12/2020 CASH DEPOSIT SELF Rs.300
5. 08/01/2021 UPI/CR/100819388083/Madhu S.K. Rs.300
6. 15/01/2021 INB/Rent/IHO1997500 R.Radhakrishna Rs.500

Members/Subscribers who have credited the amounts are requested to furnish details to the Treasurer Sri Anantha Ramu on mobile 9448477129.

| ALL INDIA CONSUMER PRICE INDEX | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Month | CPI Base 2016=100 | CPI base 2001=100 | 12 Months total | Monthly average | 7th CPC | DR due |
| | | | | | % increase over 261.42 | |
| June 19 | | 316 | 3673 | 306.08 | 17.08 | 17% from July 2019 Being Paid |
| Dec 19 | | 330 | 3809 | 317.41 | 21.42 | 21% from Jan. 2020 (Frozen) |
| June 20 | | 332 | 3919 | 326.58 | 24.92 | 24% from July 2020 (Frozen) |
| Dec 20 | 118.8* | 118.8x2.88= 342 | 4020 | 335 | 28.15 | 28% from Jan 2021 (Frozen) |
| Feb 21 | 119* | 119x2.88= 343 | 4045 | 337 | 28.94 | |

* linking factor for conversion of the index numbers of 2016 base year to 2001 base year : 2.88

DA/DR wef 1-1-2021 : 28% - **FROZEN** Vide MoF, DoE, OM dated 23-4-2020 Accumulated percentage DA/DR expected to be released on 1-7-2021: Due from 1-1-2020 : (17+4) from 1-7-20 (17+7) and from 1-1-2021 (17+11)

[increase will be restored prospectively from 1-7-2021 & No arrears will be paid for the period from 1-1-2020 to 30-6-2021 (18 months) as per MoF, DoE OM dated 23-4-2020.

Regd. Journal

If undelivered, please return to:

Karnataka Posts and Telecommunications Pensioners' Association (R)
165, 4th Main, 3rd Block, 3rd Stage, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru-560 079.

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