



SINGARENI RETIRED OFFICERS WELFARE ASSOCIATION

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To

Dt - 19-03-2018

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

152, South Block, Raisina Hill

New Delhi 110011

Kind Attention: Shri.Narendra Modiji

Respected Sir,

Sub: Non-Revision of pension under Coal Mines Pension Scheme 1998 (CPMS 1998) since inception of the scheme 20 years ago, seriously affecting the right to live with dignity and honour, of the 5.0 lakh pensioners of Indian coal mining industry—seeking your urgent intervention—regarding.

As you are kindly aware coal mining is the most hazardous peace time occupation with a 24x7 fight against the forces of nature comparable to the occupation of the uniformed forces guarding our national borders, fighting the enemy. Apart from the physical injuries, the coal miners are prone to, there are occupational diseases like T.B, musculoskeletal disorders and the most dreaded disease like 'pneumoconiosis' (also known as 'black lung' disease), the coal miners have to contend with. It is really fortuitous that people are living beyond the age of retirement (60 years) after working for 3 to 4 decades in the Indian coal mines, predominantly underground till the recent past.

For your kind information, pensioners of Indian coal mining industry are covered under Coal Mines Pension Scheme 1998 framed under Coal Mines Provident Fund & Miscellaneous provisions Act, 1948 administered by Ministry of Coal. Though there is a provision of review of the fund every 3 years, due to the indecision and neglect of the Board of Trustees of the Coal Mines Provident Fund, there was no upward revision since inception of the Scheme 20 years ago.

As a result there are pensioners getting a paltry amount of Rs.350/ per month or less depending on their pensionable service, fixed at the time of employee's retirement without a single rupee increase for any number of years they are alive, leading a life of destitution after spending 30-40 years of their working life in a hazardous coal mines environment.

Among several efforts by our association for the past few years, we had met the Hon'ble minister of Coal and Railways Shri.Piyush Goyal on 06.02.2018 at Parliament house New Delhi and submitted a representation on the issue. We had sent a representation dated 21.02.2018 to the Secretary Coal also.

To our utter dismay, in the latest meeting of Board of Trustees of Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation held at New Delhi on 14.03.2018, it is learnt that a sub-committee was

appointed to examine the revision of pension issue, clearly indicating the dilatory tactics adopted by the governing body.

I am enclosing the chronology of number of BOT meetings since inception of the pension scheme showing the palpitating indecision of the BOT over the past 20 years. As a result the issue has become complex with no solution in sight.

The prayer on behalf of our association to the government is on the following lines:

“Keeping in view the hazardous nature of the coal mining occupation, which is comparable to that of the uniformed forces guarding the national borders, a suitable scheme on the lines of ‘One rank One pension’ sanctioned by the government for the uniformed forces, shall be framed and implemented for the 5.0 lakh pensioners under CMPS 1998 with effect from 01.04.1998. Or In the alternative to revise the pension scheme so that no old retiree of the Coal Industry would get less than 50% of the pension which a new retiree gets after his retirement from the same Post/Grade.”

Unless this issue is taken up at the Cabinet level and the scheme is thoroughly overhauled/ reviewed/recast, the continuing of the pension scheme is in danger, seriously affecting the interests of present and future pensioners numbering more than 5.0 lakhs.

In the light of the above we humbly request you to accord top priority to our above mentioned grievance and pass necessary orders to protect our right to live with dignity and honour in our sunset years as guaranteed by the Constitution of India.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully



(J.V.Dattatreya)

General Secretary