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General Insurance Pensioners' Association (Western Zone)

Regd.No.1658,dt22/12/98

Circular No.1/2008
14th Feb08

New year greetings

Pensioners Association is extending you all pensioners/retirees greetings of the New Year. While wishing you we are urging you all to unite to live better secured life. In our security comes the health security after financial security.

- **Health insurance: The committee appointed by the IRDA (K.S Sastry) submitted its report (Nov07). The same is containing one hundred sixty-one pages.**
- **The main recommendations are:**
- **Fix a base price of Rs3000/-at age 50 for sum insured of Rs one lac.**
- **All senior citizens, irrespective of age, health conditions or claim history, will have access to health insurance. The only exception will be those who are diagnosed with terminal illness at the first time of entry.**
- **Pre-existing diseases are clearly defined-(liberal.)**
- **Progressive tax concession to lower income to get proportionately higher benefits.**
- **Irda should mandate access to health insurance to all senior citizens implying universal coverage. This should come as a big relief for several senior citizens organizations who have been complaining denial of fresh insurance cover & unaffordable premium.**
- **Since guaranteed insurance being provided first time there should be no upper age limit for entry or renewal for three years from the date IRDA issues the regulations.**

- **Crediting at least 50% of service tax on all health insurance schemes to an insurance pool to be created by the IRDA to deal with high-risk insurance cases of sr citizens.**
- **Capturing the lump-sum retirement benefits & providing health insurance for long years.**
- **NGOS & pensioners to help increase penetration so health insurance becomes competitive & viable. Pensioners Associations to be given agency as corporates are given.**
- **Choice of TPA is given with option with lower premium.**
- **A health insurance pool be created with the active government funding as well as other stake holders to take over high risk cases say senior above 80years.**
- **All sr citizens with income below the average per capita income but above poverty line should be given a grant of Rs100/-per month in voucher for availing health care insurance or treatment.**
- **To adequately regulate Hospital & other health care providers legislation should be promoted under Article 249 Of the constitution.**
- Employees availing health scheme from employers may be allowed to change over to sr citizens health insurance scheme. Also they will be considered as having continuous cover on retirement under sr citizens policy cover.
- **UNITY:** our Association having gone through the recommendation did sought opinions of well-known professionals. It was felt that with whatever drawbacks etc of the recommendations there is a policy recommended by the committee.. Therefore let us first demand implementation of the recommendation immediately. Association therefore fervently appealed to all NGOS & Associations to come together & decide on recommendation. It is heartening to note that:
- **HelpAge India, Harmony for Silvers Foundation, Dignity Foundation, All India Senior Citizens Confederation (aiscon) All India Retired Insurance Employees Federation, BrihanMumbai Pensioners Association, All India Bank retirees Federation & Reserve Bank Retired Employees Association met in Mumbai on 18th December 07, considered the recommendation & came to the unanimous decision that without demanding any improvement, fine tuning etc we should demand immediate implementation of the recommendations.**
- **FORUM FOR HEALTH INSURANCE OF SENIOR CITIZENS is**

constituted of the above organizations . Dr.S. P. Kinjawadekar is Chairman & com. K. S. Samant is secretary. the Forum urged the Prime Minister Finance Minister & IRDA by its letter dt2nd January 08.we met Shri K. N, Bhandari Chairman of General Insurance council.on 29th January 08 a press conference was addressed by the Foroum. Hindustan Times, CNBC Awaj, Sahyadri Radio have flashed the same. Several other organistions of Pensioners & senior citizens organization have sent letters & email to irda & Govt. a signature campaign is undertakenurging immediately implantation of the recommendations. Dignity Foundation has given wide cover in its voice of Dignity monthly. Harmony has covered the recommendations. HelpAge is reaching its 3lacs senior citizens readers. ASCON is briefing its three lakh members. we request you to send Post cards/letters, email to Finance MinisterGovt of India134 North Block New Delhi:110001 & IRDA at 3rd Floor,Parishram Bhawan, Basheerbag, Hyderabad 500004 urging implementation of the recommendations.email: chairman@irda.gov.in.fax: chairman on fax-040-66823334.

- It will be appreciated if copy is marked to gicpensinersassn@gmail.com or Dr Kinjawadekar drspking@gmail.com
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DHARANA: all of us are quite aware that with show of strength only Govt & bueacrats will accede to our just need-Health Insurance to sr citizens at affordable cost- therefore a time has come to organse aDharan in Mumbai shortly. You are requested to enroll yourself frmom mimbai for the Dahrna date is being decided.

Followup: on 8th & 9th February 08 Forum has sent letters to FM Health Minster of Maharashtra & Secretary of labour & industry seeking immediately appointment.

OTHER ISSUES:

1. **EXGRATIA:** spouse of pre86 retirees are now granted ex-gratia of rs.1000/-pm. Retirees are requested to locate such eligible persons & help them to apply to the concerned co as required. The ex-gratia is from the date of application hence the need to apply immediately.
2. **ECS remittances of Pension:** The oriental retirees have faced some difficultyi n receiving their pension in time. Association has taken up the matter with OIC & LIC. We are informed that it was a software problem. The LIC is operating its ECS scheme through RBI & SBI. SBI is accepting ecs if

there are 25 entries at a station. Therefore LIC is finding it difficult to provide this facility to every location as informed to us. Those desirous to avail ECS facility may submit mandate letter directly to The Manger,(P&GS)LIC of India, P&GS DEPT 7th Floor, Jeevan Praksh, 25, K.G> Marg NEW DELHI 110001.tele/Fax23350678.

3. **D. R.:**

4. dearnesss Relief is payable to the elligible pensioners at all India Average Consumer Price Index of 3056.00 w.e.f.1st Day of February, 2008.Consequently the increase Dearness relief payable to the pensioners from 01/02/08 shall be as under:

5. a) For the pensioners whose pension is linked to AICP600 points, shall get Dearness relief for 614 slabs

6. b) For the pensioners whose pension is linked to AICP 1148 points, shall get Dearness relief for 477 slabs c)For the pensioners whose pension is linked to

AICP 1740 points shall get Dearness relief for 329 slabs; d) For the

pensioners whose pension is linked to AICP 2328 points, shall get Dearness relief for 182 slabs. Dearness relief on ex-gratia payable to pre-1-1-1986

retirees works out to Rs. 1234.00 w.e.f.1.2.2008. **We are appealing to**

pensioner to DONATE generously to the General Insurance Pensioners Association w. z.

7. **Refund of professional tax:** Many of the offices have obtained the said refund. Few are yet to claim in required format. Oriental Ro II though the order is passed ther is efforts lacking from the Regional office to abtain the refund cheque. We are taking it up with the authorities.

8. **Refund Of Bank charges:** in September 06 cheques of retirees were bounced resulting in deduction of Bank charges. Association is perusing this case for quite some time. Our letter dated 15th January 08..to Chief, P&GS Dept at C. O. LIC has been positively responded which is reproduced here below.

Association has sent a list but those who have claimed the refund should send a copy to

chief P&GS Department LIC Central Office YOGAKSHEMA MUMBAI 400023.

" LIC P&GS Department, Central Office 5th Floor, Yogakshema, Jeevan Bima Marg, Mumbai400021.

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K. S. Samant

General Secretary

General Insurance Pensioners Association western zone,

Sterling Cinema Bldg, 3rd Floor,

65 Marzaban Road, Fort
MUMBAI400001.

Dear Sir,

RE: Reimbursement of Bank Charges to the annuitants of Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd.

This has reference to your letter dt 15/01/2008 regarding the above.

Please let us have a list of beneficiaries alongwith the amount of Bank Charges not reimbursed by LIC so that immediate steps can be taken to effect the payment.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully,

sd

Chief(SBU-P&GS) "

letter.....

6. **Retired employees mediclaim:** We are happy to note that the PSUs have agreed upward revision in the eligible & maximum sum insured limits under the employees' Group Mediclaim Policy as under:-

Eligible mediclaim category	Basic Pay Range	Eligible sum Insured	Higher Limit up Which Sum Insured can be Opted.
I	18671 & above 12934 & above for class II	1,65,000	500000/-
II	14730 to 18670 9716 to 12934 for category II	100000/-	500000/-
III	Less than 14730 Less than 9716 for class II	70,000/-	500000/-

Since the coverage is extended to retired/svrs & spouse of deceased employees eligible sum insured limit & higher sum insured limit is applicable. The necessary option is allowed only once & that too it has to be submitted with appropriate premium before 31st march 2008.

7. **LOADIG 150% Premium:** the national has loaded mediclaim premium by

120% to OIC group. Similarly other cos also will be hiking the premium more than 100% this year as we understand. Though IRDA has sent a direction to all cos not to raise premium on mediclaim more than 75% on the 2006 premium, the cos have hiked the premium. Employees /retirees are finding ti unaffordable. We have taken up the issue with the cos as well as irda. Forum constituted for Health insurance is requesting IRDA/Govt to immediately withdraw such hike & refund the extra premium charged.

8. **Court cases:** the status of cases filed in different courts so far as difference in salry to svrs employees are infavour in one court & dismissed in another court. The fvourable decision of HIMACHAL Pradesh court is challenged by the cos. In Ahemedabad a Wp is dismissed. It is a matter of time as several cases are in the court. Individuals & some groups are going to court.
9. **Updation of Pension & 100% DR neutralization:** In this matter also LIC BANK & GIC Pensioners have gone to courts after exhausting all avenues of solutions. Though our Association needs to become party we are not able to do so because of merger financial position. RBI pensioners are preparing for a Dharna on this issue. Sate Bank pensioners are also planning action.
10. **Accidental Death insurance Cover:** All postal account holders can avail of accidental death insurance of Rs.100,000 at an annual premium of .rs.15/- This was was introduced in January 2006 in collaboration with Oriental Insurance co. Ltd.
11. **FUND:** since the Pensioners Association has to be strengthen members are urged to send in theier DONATION. Non members are requested to enroll as members with DONATIOS.
12. **with greetings.**

1. yours in coopration.

K. S. Samant

General Secretary.

Address for Correspondence:c/o GIEU wz, Sterling Cinema Building, 3rd Floor, 65,Murzban Road, Fort, Mumbai 400 001.