

GENERAL INSURANCE PENSIONERS' ALL INDIA FEDERATION

(Regd No A L C Karyasan 17/11087)

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A brief of various events and development in the year 2019

Dear Pensioners,

The year 2019 is almost coming to an end with leaving behind many memorable achievement and events.

HOMEAGE:- At the outset we share our condolence for those colleagues of ours who left us permanently from this world. Many prominent leaders like Arun Jaitley, Sushma Swaraj, Manohar Parikar, Sheila Dikshit also breath last during the year.

GOVERNMENT:-This year there was general election in the month of April and May for 545 seats of Parliament. Many TV channels predicted stiff challenge from Congress and its allies but everything proved wrong when NDA under Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership once again came to power with a massive majority in Parliament.

smt. Nirmala Sitharaman was allotted Finance Ministry since Late. Arun Jaitley conveyed his inability to continue as Finance Minister. Her Maiden budget in parliament did not impress either industrialists or common people. No much thrust was given on how to revamp the economy of the country though the GDP rate was going down in every quarter. Unemployment and farmer problems started growing every day. What we find or experience with this government is they want to de-nationalize the public sector institutions including the nine jewels public sector industries. In the financial sector nationalized banks are suffering huge losses due to NPA.

INDUSTRY:-GIPSA - public sector General Insurance companies continue to lose their solvency margin due to heavy underwriting losses.

For financial year 2018-2019, the general insurance sector's profits stood at INR6.83 billion (US\$96.13 million), down almost 90% from financial year 2017-2018, The sharp decrease in profits affected mostly state-owned insurers,

Meanwhile, private general insurers were not greatly affected, and their profits only decreased marginally, the report said.(IRDA Reports.)

MERGER:-The announced merger of three Public sector General Insurance Companies though announced in 2018 budget is yet to take final shape. We in Insurance industry demand all GIPSA cos to be one to acquire synergy and avoid competition amongst itself.

PENSION OPTION:-With this background in our general Insurance Sector the first big achievement has taken place when government considered the long pending demand of employees and retirees to open one more option for pension. All existing unions and pensioner associations made their best efforts and mounted pressure on the Finance Minister Mr. Arun Jaitley who before leaving finance minister's post gave parting gift to GIC and LIC employees and their retirees.

About 16000 employees/retirees opted for pension this time. All these times they were worried about their future specially those who retired without opting for pension experiencing tough time to manage their life. Pension always gives a secure life and provides you healthy long life.

This time all pensioners received 100 slabs increase of dearness relief (February + August 2019) during this year.

MEDICLAIM:-Your association/Federation is very keen to see that our group medical policy provides better facilities with a reduced premium. We are trying to get incurred claim ratio from all the four companies so that if ICR comes down we can demand a reduction in premium. We also want some facilities like Diagnostic test cost be reimbursed without hospitalization. Third Party Administrative Service by HITPA is not up to the expectation. It is observed that proper infrastructure is not yet in place. There are delays in settling the claim. Some PPN Hospitals are denying cashless admission, thus creating tremendous hardship to pensioners.

Federation wanted to sort out the shortcoming and had 2/3 rounds of discussion with New India officials along with Mr. Chaubey DGM HITPA –H.O. During the meeting it was found that Float of claims is uploaded by HITPA, company instruct its banker to remit amount by bifurcating settlement to different hospital/ claimant, the Bank remit such amounts to Hospitals/claimants. The details of amount of each individuals are (it appears) not informed to Hospitals as also UNIQUE Transaction registration no (UTR) is remained to be communicated to Hospital, company and TPA. The delay is further compounded by non reconciliation by the authorities like, bank, company, hospitals & TPA. This has resulted in around 9000 cases pending only in New India by October 2019.

This led to some Hospitals though in cashless list do not admit pensioners unless huge advance is paid. This defeat the very purpose of TPA & cashless facility.

Our Federation's consistent efforts have alerted the company & TPA.

REPRESENTATION:- Federation's INDORE unit organised a joint meeting with HITPA Gipsa companies & pensioners where in these issues were highlighted. Similarly Eastern zone unit of Federation had meeting with H. O. Management of National. North zone representative met GIPSA chairman and CE GIPSA for expediting this and our various issues.

IRDA approached:- we met Mr. Kunthia, chairman, IRDA on 6th November 2019 in Mumbai & submitted a memorandum mainly on mediclaim as also pension option to erstwhile TAC employees/retirees.

Finance Ministry:- on 13th November 2019 Federation sought an appointment & met in Mumbai Mr. Debasish Panda (IAS) Sp. Secretary Ministry of Finance, Insurance Division. We submitted a set of documents with our letter dt. 13th November 2019 on the issue of

- a) Enhancement of Family pension @30% we opined that cost involved will be negligible.
- b) Increase (Increase in existing) limit of enhanced Family pension on death of an employee while in service,
- c) 100% dearness increase to pensioners retired prior to August 1997,
- d) Granting of enhance pension to very old pensioners. He assured us to look in to these issues which require amendment of pension scheme.
- e) On the question of extending one more option to TAC employees/retirees he confirmed that Government is aware of the issue.

As far mutual consultation between General Insurance Pensioners All India Federation and GIPSA companies he assured to find out from GIPSA & decide.

FAMILY PENSION:- meagre family pension is starving the family pensioners. At present it is 30%, 20% and 15% of Basic Pension (depending on basic pay). Most of the pensioners are covered under 15% range. Minimum pension come to Rs3300 (approx.). How can a widow and her family survive with such a meagre pension? For Central Government retiree's minimum family pension is Rs9000 (approx.).

AGITATION:- to achieve enhancement in family pension, Executive Committee meeting at Patna decided to go for country wide agitation program. First phase regional wise Dharna between 10th December to 13th December, 2019. Then zonal Dharna on 15th January 2020 and thereafter All India Dharna at New Delhi in 3rd week of February 2020.

We appeal to you all to join for Zonal Dharna and thereafter get ready for attending All India Dharna at New Delhi. We earnestly request all pensioners/ widows/ widowers to join en-mass and make it a grand success. Let the government know we are retired but not tired of struggle and sacrifice. Our efforts will also be there for updation of pension as done in Reserve Bank of India. We will jointly fight with Bank and LIC pensioners union to achieve our demands. Also for 100% Dearness Relief, to pensioners retired before 1st August 1997.

COURT cases:- on updation & other issues court cases are pending. We have to wait for the final judgement.

WEBSITE:- www.gicpensioners.com is dynamic website of our Federation. Circulars, notifications, company's instructions, frequently asked questions, news, events etc are regularly uploaded on it. It is visited by more than three lakhs hits so far. Contact us is also provided.

Pensioners are appealed to access this website for updating themselves. It is easily accessible to all.

FUND:- To carry out all these activities fund is required. Federation is fervently appealing to all come out to help the Federation to augment funds in big way.

Therefore, we appeal for generous donation immediately. Remit your donation core banking as per the bank details given below:

General Insurance Pensioners All India Federation,
CANARA BANK
Sir P.M Road, Mumbai 400001
S/B No: 0108101800124
IFS Code: CNRB0000108

SIXTH CONFERENCE:-Federation will be holding its 6th Bi-annual conference on 14thand15thMarch March, 2020 at Jodhpur. This is a unique event in the history of Federation. It will ponder over ways & means to organize pensioners to achieve its genuine demands.

ACTIVITIES:- PICNICS; Our units/ centers in the most part of country are working effectively. Centers like Pune, Nagpur, Jabalpur, Mumbai and Ahmadabad are holding picnic every year.

GET TO GETHER: 1st week of January get together of pensioners are held at Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur Jabalpur Ahmadabad, Jaipur and few other centers where management is greeting pensioners. Let's all take initiative and approach management to organize New Year get-together in centers where it is not organized.

MARATHON:-In Mumbai large number of pensioner take part in marathon organized by TATA Mumbai. This is eleventh year of Marathon where ninety-one pensioners will participate.

Many problems of pensioners are always attended and solved by Zonal Association/ Federation promptly.

VIMASATHI:- hereafter federation will communicate with pensioners through VIMASATHI. This will serve twin purpose of updating industry's issues as well as pensioners, therefore pensioners are urged to subscribe to VIMASATHI by remitting yearly RS.40/- to General Insurance Employees All India Association, 3rd Floor, Sterling Cinema Bldg, 65, Murzban Road, Fort, Mumbai-400001.tele. 022 2073508, 2070058.

We appeal all the pensioners to join in our fold and strengthen our hands to fight and struggle for our genuine demands. Don't forget we are senior citizen and we have the right to live.

We welcome the New Year 2020 and greet all of you and your family "A Happy New Year" with a hope that the New Year will bring a better medical cover and success to our struggle.

Yours In-Service,

U. Banerjee
General Secretary

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