



Sanchar Nigam Pensioners' Welfare Association

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Brief report regarding developments since formation of SNPWA in its first CWC meeting held at Jaipur on 1st April 2023 at Hotel GITANJALI .

The flag hoisting of CWC was done by CHQ President at 9.45 am amidst chants of enthusiastic slogans ' SNPWA Zindabad', ' Pensioners'Unity Zindabad', SNEA(I) Zindabad, Our struggle Zindabad, our Unity Zindabad etc.

Thereafter, house assembled in a very comfortable Conference Hall. After observing silent prayer to pay homage to the departed Comrades and self introduction, the host Circle honoured all CHQ office-bearers and other invited dignitaries, Com Adsul, Com Tomar and Com Mudgal. .

Com. Sita Ram Sharma CS Rajasthan Circle welcomed the gathering.

In his presidential address, the CHQ President highlighted the very special status that SNPWA had been able to carve out in the comity of Pensioners' Associations through productive actions on all fronts by the Association. The highly persuasive and untiring role of our GS and CHQ Vice President in closely following and monitoring various issues at the all the levels, particularly in the crucial issue of pension revision was duly acknowledged by the house.

Report presented by the GS covered in brief the landmark achievements of the Association since it's birth hardly 42 months back. The main points covered included SNPWA's role in pension revision, case of ST comrades of Maharashtra, medical allowances on BSNL MRS, Fast track refund of CGHS contribution, tax on CGHS refund, fixation issues of JTOs of Kerala Circle, CGHS migration - it's benefits, issues in CGHS - our suggestions and actions for improvement, SNPWA health insurance scheme, issues of VRS comrades, enhancing the taxation limits of ex-gratia and leave encashment - court case on these, concession on FTTH connections to retirees, FMA facilities on surrender of OPD in CGHS, unjust notices from IT authorities under section 143, progress in our enrolled membership, fostering our already existing formidable relationship with SNEA etc.

The GS also apprised the house in minutest detail about the various stages of pension revision, particularly our two crucial meetings with Hon MOC.

Detailed discussions on the CGHS infirmities followed with members of the house expressing their firm opinions, particularly on lack of facilities in CGHS WCs, insufficiency of stock of medicines in WCs, delay in getting indented medicines, lack of quality of generic medicines and the need for testing and approval from competent authorities, non-supply of medicines prescribed by specialists on the plea that they are supplements, posting of AD CGHS in Andhra Pradesh etc.

But by far, the most important among the issues raised was the insufficiency of WCs in many cities, not to speak of their spread in rural areas. Demands were raised for increasing the spread of WCs to all needy places. Similarly the lack of sufficient doctors in the existing WCs was a sore issue. There were demands for opening WCs at least in each District headquarters.

Even though the funds for CGHS has been enhanced by around 1500 crores in this year's budget, there were complaints on many major hospitals de-empaneling and many refusing cashless treatment aggravating the agony of the pensioners.

The GS suggested active interaction by the Circle leadership with CMOs and ADs at their levels. He also advised the house to be prepared for serious organisational actions to strengthen the CGHS mechanism, the lifeline of the employees and retirees. Of very specific significance was the discussion on the efficacy of generic medicines and inevitable need of getting these medicines tested by a credible Scientific Organization and its approval by Drug Controller General of India.

While appreciating the efforts of the CHQ in setting up a very liberal health insurance scheme for the ex-employees, the house expressed the need for minimising the claim ratio so that it is viable. GS lauded the unparalleled and untiring efforts of CHQ President in launching premier SNPWA Medical Insurance Scheme which has provided timely succour to hundreds and hundreds of our Comrades.

The presence and address of Com. Adsul GS SNEA added glamour to the meeting. In his address he focussed on the unparalleled relationship between the two Associations emphasising that the two were not different but mere extensions of each other. He assured that SNEA would continue its whole hearted efforts of to strengthen SNPWA.

GS MTNL EA and Secretary General NCOA, who recollected the long innings of affinity and association with both SNEA and NCOA lauded the critical role of SNEA which was instrumental in strengthening the NCOA and making it more productive.

GS MTNL REWA, Com. Mudgil elaborated the history of the struggle for pension revision and extended full support to SNPWA in all its activities.

The CHQ treasurer, Com. S. S. Rajput recollected the happenings that led to the formation of SNPWA. He also submitted a precise financial report before the house.

Discussions followed on the organisation- it's strengthening and further enrollment. The Circle Secretaries actively participated in the brainstorming discussions on issues and proposed suggestions for increasing the strength of the Association in their respective areas. They also in principle assured CHQ of meeting the target 10, 000 membership assigned to them by the CHQ.

As it stands Maharashtra comes on top of the paid membership list followed by, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

The immediate target set by the CHQ is to increase the membership to 10000 and this was duly acknowledged by the house with voice vote.

The house unanimously co-opted the following office- bearers to the CHQ leadership

1. Com A. Chandrasekhar, AP - AGS
2. Com. A. G. Joshi, Maharashtra- AGS
3. Com Dilip Saha, WB - AGS.
4. Com. Ajay Trivedi, UP(E) -Jt. Secretary Central
5. Com. Ramakrishna, Karnataka- AGS

Discussions were also held on the CCA related issues. Com. Chandrasekhar pointed out the difficulties in Circle transfer of retirees, who retired from ITPC and other non recruiting Circles. Even though the CGCA had issued orders, great delay is experienced at the CCA levels. Circle leaders would take it up CCA levels and if need be, CHQ will get actively involved at the CGCA level.

Com. D. C. Sharma highlighted the non- action by BSNL/MTNL Managements which failed to comply with Supreme Court orders on Rule 206 regarding refixation of Seniority and payment of consequential benefits wef 1.1.2018. The CHQ is actively pursuing it and if need arises further appropriate legal action is also under consideration.

The MH Circle was instructed to serve notice to CGM/ MH and Pr CCA/ Mumbai for aggressive organizational actions on the final settlement of ST issue in immediate future. The CHQ which has already taken the issue to its logical conclusion fully assured of its total and committed involvement till the resolution of the issue in its totality.

After about 11 hours of intense and brainstorming discussions, deliberations and decisions, Com. George Verghese proposed vote of thanks to the host Circle for making very comfortable

boarding and lodging arrangements and also thanked the participants for having come from places like Odisha, WB, Kerala, Karnataka, AP, MH etc to participate in the CWC and engage in very meaningful and serious deliberations on issues.

CWC also expressed its gratitude to Com Rajput, Com Sitaram and Com D.C. Sharma for arranging two crucial meetings with Hon MOC on issue of Pension Revision.

After National Anthem, the house adjourned sine die at 8.10 pm.

Comradely yours,



G. L. Jogi
General Secretary