



Sanchar Nigam Pensioners' Welfare Association

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SNPWA/CHQ/Hon PM/1/ 25.

Dated 19th Nov, 25.

To

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

South Block, New Delhi – 110001

Subject: **Urgent Appeal for Amendment of the VIII CPC Terms of Reference – A Call to Prevent a Historic Injustice to India's Pensioners**

Respected Sir,

With utmost respect, but also with deep anguish, anxiety and a sense of palpable betrayal, we seek your personal intervention on the grave implications arising from the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the recently constituted **VIII Central Pay Commission** (vide *Ministry of Finance Notification dated 03.11.2025*).

For millions of Central Government pensioners and family pensioners, the present ToR has not just caused disappointment – it has **shaken their faith in the commitment of the State to its own retired servants.**

A Deeply Disturbing Assault on Pensioners' Rights

For the *first time in independent India*, the ToR has chosen to describe pensioners as “**unfunded, non-contributory pensioners**”, reducing an entire class of senior citizens – who gave their best years to the service of the nation – into a mere **fiscal liability on paper.**

This is not a harmless phrase. It signals a **fundamental change in the way the Government views its own retirees** – not as rightful *recipients of earned, deferred wages*, but as an **unwanted burden to be cut down and “managed”.**

Such terminology is:

* **Factually wrong,**

* **Financially misleading**, and

* **Morally offensive** to those who upheld the sovereignty and integrity of this nation for decades.

It conveys to pensioners that after devoting a lifetime to the nation, they are now being branded, **isolated and targeted** as the softest segment to absorb so-called “fiscal corrections”.

Factual and Moral Fallacies in the ToR

It is a matter of record that the **Government of India holds a pension corpus exceeding ₹10 lakh crore**, painstakingly accumulated for meeting pension obligations. To call the system “unfunded” in the face of such a corpus is a **serious misstatement of fact** and creates a **false narrative** that pensioners exist at the cost of future generations.

Equally, the **National Pension System (NPS)** is presented as funded and legitimate, while those covered under the **CCS (Pension) Rules** are virtually painted as a drag on the exchequer. This is **unjust and divisive**:

* NPS pensioners receive **matching Government contributions** , and

* Pensioners under the old pension scheme have, over decades, **contributed massively** to the exchequer through direct and indirect taxes and by building institutions as well as by paying pension contributions, infrastructure, defence capabilities and administrative systems.

To praise one category as “ **reformed**” and “**sustainable**” while *stigmatizing* the other as “ **unfunded**” and “**unsustainable**” is nothing short of **institutional discrimination** between two sets of servants of the same sovereign.

There is also a growing and genuine fear that the language of “unfunded liability” and “rationalization” is a prelude to **diverting or diluting the pension corpus** for other fiscal purposes. Any such move would be a **breach of fiduciary trust** and would **permanently damage the confidence** of present and future employees in the Union Government as a fair and reliable employer.

The provisions of the **Finance Bill, 2025, retrospectively backdated to 01.06.1972**, have only deepened these fears. The timing and the retrospective nature of these provisions give a disturbing impression that they are crafted to **circumvent hard-won judicial protections** and to **freeze or extinguish future pension revisions** under the guise of fiscal consolidation.

Inconsistent with Constitutional and Judicial Principles

This entire approach sits uneasily with the **Constitution of India**, especially **Article 14**, which guarantees equality before law and prohibits arbitrary classification.

The landmark judgment of the Hon’ble **Supreme Court in D.S. Nakara & Others vs Union of India (1983 AIR 130)** clearly held:

“Pension is not a bounty payable at the will of the Government, but a right earned for past services rendered.”

“With the change in pay structure, revision of pension must also follow; otherwise the class of pensioners would become unequals among equals.

The *Nakara* judgment elevated pension from a discretionary gesture to a **continuing, enforceable right and an instrument of socio-economic justice.**

To now stigmatize pensioners as “unfunded, non-contributory” and to **exclude them from the mainstream of the VIII CPC** is a direct assault on:

- * **the spirit of Nakara,**
- * **the principle of equality,** and
- * **the moral authority of the welfare State.**

It creates **two classes of pensioners** and sends a chilling signal that the State may walk away from its **moral and constitutional obligations** to those who can no longer protest in the streets

Cruel Exclusion of Pensioners and Ambiguity in Implementation

The virtual exclusion of nearly 69 lakh Central Government Pensioners and Family Pensioners from the effective purview of the VIII CPC is not just an oversight – it is perceived as a **deliberate and dehumanizing act.**

These are elderly citizens, many in their late seventies and eighties, who gave 30–40 years of their life to the nation. To ignore them at this vulnerable stage of life amounts to nothing less than **State-sanctioned neglect and abandonment .**

Equally alarming is the **absence of a clear and explicit ToR** regarding:

- * **Pension revision** for those who retired before 01.01.2026, and
- * **The date of effect** of the VIII CPC recommendations.

Every Central Pay Commission from the 4th onwards has carried a clear mandate and precedent of revision *every 10 years*, effective from **01.01.1986, 01.01.1996, 01.01.2006 and 01.01.2016.** Any attempt to keep the effective date vague now is seen as a **conscious design to delay, dilute or even deny** the benefit of revision to pensioners and to serving employees approaching retirement.

A Community Pushed to the Edge

Sir, we write with **deep frustration, wounded dignity and rising anger** among pensioners, but still with faith that **your intervention can and will correct** this course.

Pensioners feel:

- * They are being unfairly targeted as the easiest group to “cut”,
- * Their service is being forgotten,
- * Their rights are being quietly hollowed out , and

* Their self-respect is being eroded by terminology that treats them as mere numbers on a balance sheet.

This is not the India they helped build.

Our Earnest and Strident Appeal

We, therefore, most respectfully yet **firmly and unequivocally** urge your immediate intervention to direct the following amendments to the ToR of the VIII CPC and related policy measures:

1. Withdraw the objectionable terminology

The description of pensioners as “ *unfunded, non-contributory* ” must be **unconditionally withdrawn** from all official documents of the VIII CPC and from any related policy narrative. No Government document should carry language that **demeans or stigmatizes its own retired employees**.

2. Explicitly include Pension Revision in the ToR

Insert a clear and specific ToR, on the lines of **Clause (2f) of the VII CPC**, directing the VIII CPC to:

“examine and recommend the revision of pension/family pension of all Central Government Pensioners and Family Pensioners who retired prior to 01.01.2026, ensuring full parity and justice with serving employees.”

3. Affirm parity and fairness between NPS and Old Pension Scheme pensioners

Make it **explicit that both NPS and old pensioners are equal** pensioners of the Government of India, and that no class of pensioners shall be **labelled or treated as a lesser category** or as a burden. Any fiscal reforms must be **equitable, transparent and humane**, not based on divisive labelling.

4. Safeguard and ring-fence the pension corpus

Issue a clear and binding directive that **the ₹10 lakh crore pension corpus shall be ring-fenced and used exclusively towards fulfilling present and future pension obligations, and shall not be diverted, diluted or re-purposed** under any fiscal pretext.

5. Repeal retrograde Finance Bill which undermines

* pension rights,

* Seek to bypass or neutralize judicial pronouncements, or

* Create artificial distinctions among pensioners based on arbitrary cut-off dates.

Pension policy must rest on **justice and continuity**, not on technical devices to defeat legitimate expectations.

6. Clearly fix 01.01.2026 as the effective date of VIII CPC recommendations

In keeping with the historic and unbroken practice of decennial revision, the Government should **formally declare 01.01.2026** as the **effective date for implementation** of pay and pension revisions recommended by the VIII CPC, for both serving employees and pensioners.

In Conclusion

Sir, India's pensioners **are not a burden – they are the backbone of the Republic's institutional memory and the architects of its post-independence growth.**

On behalf of lakhs of anxious and deeply hurt pensioners, we **earnestly but stridently appeal** for your personal, statesmanlike intervention to:

*** Amend the ToR of the VIII CPC,**

*** Restore the dignity and security** of pensioners, and

*** Reaffirm the Republic's solemn commitment that those who served the nation will not be discarded in their old age.**

We remain hopeful that you will **hear the anguish behind these words** and act in the true spirit of justice, equity and compassion.

With profound regards,

Yours faithfully,



G. L. Jogi

General Secretary

For and on behalf of

Sanchar Nigam Pensioners' Welfare Association (SNPWA)

Copy to:

1. Hon'ble Finance Minister, Government of India
2. Cabinet Secretary, Govt of India.
3. Finance Secretary, Government of India.
4. Secy/ DOP& T, Govt. of India