



ALL INDIA INSURANCE PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

SAROJ BHAVAN, MUTHALAKKULAM, KOZHIKODE - 673 004 (KERALA)
e-mail : aiipahqcalicut@gmail.com

President :
SATANJIB DAS

General Secretary :
M. KUNHIKRISHNAN

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Dear Comrades,

NOTIFICATION ON FAMILY PENSION ISSUED A LONG STRUGGLE HAS FINALLY COME TO FRUITION

The Finance Ministry has issued notification dated 11.09.2023 enhancing the family pension for LIC Pensioners at 30% without ceiling. This benefit will come into effect from the date of notification. We have already asked LIC to issue administrative instructions for early flow of this benefit. We congratulate the employees and pensioners for the success of this battle spanning over four years. However, the government is yet to take a decision for the General Insurance Pensioners. Therefore, there will be no let up by AIIPA in the struggle to secure this benefit to General Insurance Pensioners at the earliest.

While we celebrate this victory, it is necessary to recapitulate the struggle carried out by the AIIPA to secure this advancement. The demand for enhancement of Family Pension on the lines of Central Civil Service Pension Rules was raised by the AIIPA long back. This demand was supported by the AIEA and this figured as an important demand in the struggles of the serving employees. The LIC saw merit in the arguments for enhancement of Family Pension and the Board recommended for approval of the Finance Ministry in September 2019. The GIPSA was initially reluctant even to make identical recommendation on the ground that the finances of the PSGI companies are not in good shape. The AIIPA contested this argument and finally GIPSA sent recommendations on the lines already recommended by LIC in December 2021.

However, the government refused to act on these positive recommendations. This left the AIIPA with no option but to launch a serious struggle for realisation of this demand. The contours of this struggle were decided in the Silver Jubilee Year Conference of the AIIPA held on the 29th -31st May, 2022 in Bengaluru. It was decided to bring pressure on LIC and GIPSA through various programs. A number of demonstrations were held across the country and representations were made to LIC and GIPSA to follow up with the government and ensure that their recommendations are implemented. In a historically first, a dharna was organised at JantarMantar on 29th March 2023 to bring to light the plight of the family pensioners before the nation and the policy makers. The Dharna received widespread support from important trade unions and civil organisations. Buoyed by the success of Dharna, the AIIPA decided to approach Members of Parliament to solicit their support to our struggle. It is a matter of great satisfaction that more than 90 MPs belonging to all political parties wrote to the Finance Minister to concede this legitimate demand. A number of MPs also raised this issue on the floor of the Parliament. The Prime Minister was also approached with memorandums seeking his personal intervention to resolve this issue.

As a part of this struggle, a delegation of AIIPA consisting of its President and General Secretary accompanied by Com. John Brittas, MP (Rajyasabha) met the Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman in her Parliament House Chamber on 2nd August. That meeting was fruitful in course of which Hon'ble Finance Minister assured the Delegation to resolve the issue of family pension early. AIIPA followed this up with addressing two letters dated 7th August to the Chairpersons of LIC and GIPSA. The letters while apprising them of the discussion AIIPA held with the Union Finance Minister urged upon them to resolve the issue without further delay.

Finally these efforts succeeded and the notification enhancing Family Pension for LIC Pensioners is issued. But for the organisation, the struggle continues. The struggle now is to secure this benefit for the General Insurance Pensioners. It must be noted that this demand has been won in the teeth of a discriminatory attitude by the powers that be. There was no reason to delay this decision when the benefit has been extended to the pensioners of analogous financial institutions. The need is to remain vigilant to protect the gains achieved. The struggle to secure justice to GI Pensioners must be intensified. The AIIPA should focus now on the issue of ending discriminatory dearness allowance formula and updation of pension.

Comrades, a significant victory has been won. To achieve this victory, help and support has been extended by a large number of Members of Parliament and trade unions. The serving employees have also projected this demand in their struggle and the call given for two hour walk out strike on 12th September 2023 by Joint Front of Trade Unions in LIC had this as a leading demand. We, thank the MPs and JFTU for their support. We thank all Pensioners for successfully participating in the programs of AIIPA.

We once again congratulate the pensioners on securing this demand. The AIIPA reiterates its commitment to continue the struggle till this benefit is secured for the General Insurance Pensioners.

With greetings,

Comradely yours,



M. Kunhikrishnan
(General Secretary)