

Veterans Voice

A Bimonthly Journal of

All India State Bank Veteran Office-Bearers Forum

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Editorial Committee

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AISVOF 10th CONCLAVE IN THE HOLY CITY, TIRUPATI 13th TO 15th DEC 2022



Plan your journey, book your tickets at the earliest, and secure accommodation. AISVOF INVITES ALL THE MEMBERS TO THE 10th CONCLAVE AT TIRUPATI 13th TO 15th DECEMBER 2022



Editorial ...

THE SHOW MUST GO ON



The salary and allowances of Bank employees are revised periodically. The charter of demands for 12th bipartite has been submitted. It is an accepted fact that, there is a need to review and revise the pay packets of the serving employees periodically to compensate for inflation and to support them to lead comfortable life. Naturally, banks have to incur additional cost towards salary revision. In fact, it is not a cost but an investment in Human Resources.

Similarly, it is the responsibility of the management to review and revise the pension payable to its employees who served the institution with utmost devotion and diligence for

longer time than serving employees.

There are umpteen number of court cases wherein it has been mentioned that pension is not a gratis, it is a deferred wage. The recent verdict by Hon'ble High Court of Kerala in W.P.(CC) 29890/2018 is that, periodical revision has to be considered by the Bank on holistic approach. It has permitted the petitioner to request the Bank for revision on pension payable and also directed the Bank to respond to the request of the petitioner within two months' time limit.

S B I , pension scheme exists from the era of presidency banks, and imperial Bank of India. Sec 50 of SBI Act 1955 is very clear about the pension liability of the Bank. Nowhere it is mentioned that pension payable is linked to the funds position. It is the responsibility of the management to keep sufficient funds to meet pension liability. However, pension fund position of the SBI is robust enough to take care of about 1.6 lakhs of pensioners and about 60,000 family pensioners. The fact remains that during 2012, sufficient funds were transferred not only from balance sheet but also from reserve fund, with the consent of the Auditors, to take care of the pension liability, even in case of new pension scheme introduced in SBI from 01.08.2010 which is different from NPS in other public sector Banks. There exists provident Fund with NPS for new recruits in SBI from 01.08.2010. The pension scheme in the SBI is different from the pension scheme in other Banks. The pension was introduced in other banks from 01.01.1986, by signing an agreement with unions during 1995. Such Pension regulations did provide the method of calculation for Pension payment and up-dations etc

The Central Board of SBI is to form a Pension Fund Trust and manage the funds position. A piquant situation arose when the D.A on pension was paid in SBI by debit to charges account, which has been changed way back to pay DA by debit to pension fund account. It's an additional burden on the Pension Fund. The pension regulations were amended during 2014, but from retrospective effect. During 1999, the Central Board at the instance of DFS has unilaterally changed the method of calculation of pension from 50% of the pay to 40% of the pay in respect of senior officers. The point for consideration is that when SBI could change relation to accommodate additional burden of DA payment, it can equally absorb costs relating to Pension updating.

Right to pension is right to property under article 300(A) of Constitution of India. Unfortunately, the managements are misusing this right as per their whims and fancies as also pointed out by the courts.

Today, periodical revision of pension, call it by any name, has become a bone of contention. Many pensioners and their organisations have filed cases in various courts asserting their right for periodical Pension Updating. The simple issue of updation of pension has been needlessly made much more complicated. It is a common sense that as in the case of serving employees salary and allowances to be revised periodically, the pensions need to be revised at the same time. But, step-motherly attitude is seen towards these senior citizens who are helpless and completely dependent on the mercy of the management/government. Judiciary is taking its own sweet time to come to the rescue of pensioners who are suffering agony in silence. They are hoping against the hope that there will be light at the end of the tunnel.

Editorial ...

Many pensioners have left for heavenly abode but genuine expectation of those surviving is keeping the issue alive. It has almost become a permanent agenda for pensioner organisations, who have no level-playing field and definite authority to whom they have to represent their grievance. It is a cry in wilderness, where there is none to listen to the affected pensioners. But still, the show is going on despite men in authority keep coming and going without performing their responsibility towards Pensioner issues. , The show goes on... And it must go on!

(GD Nadaf)



Dear Veterans.

10th CONCLAVE OF AISVOF AT TIRUPATI ON 13th, 14th and 15th DECEMBER 2022

As it is necessary to block/ book the guest house for your accommodation at Tirupati well in advance, Veterans are requested to book their tickets and confirm their attendance at the earliest.

Please advise your travel plan to Local Convenors Vtn. Krishnakumar and Vtn. Manaiah, for necessary arrangements.

We welcome you to the Conclave with your spouse.

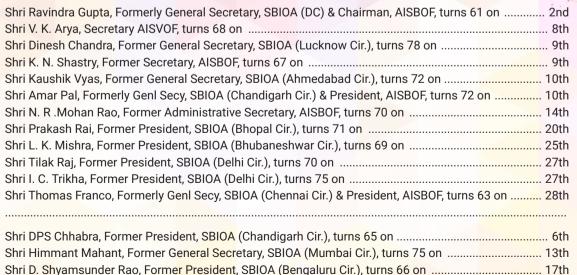
With regards,

G D Nadaf

General Secretary.

Veterans Voice conveys its warm greeting to the Following members on the occasion of their Birthdays, wishing them many more celebrations in the times

ahead with full health, prosperity and happiness.











भारतीय स्टेट बैंक State Bank of India

The Chief General Manager State Bank of India Local Head Office Chennai

HR/PPMD/SPUBKM/2022-23/95 Date: 26.08.2022

Madam / Dear Sir

COMPLAINTS: STAGNATION INCREMENT

We invite your reference to various complaints received from pensioners, family pensioners' associations, and federations regarding stagnation increment Such complaints not only create an embarrassing situation for the Bank but also involves avoidable wastage of valuable time and resources of the Bank.

- 2. In this connection, we reiterate the Circular No. CDO/P&HRD-PPFG/55/2021-22 dated 08.10.2021, wherein notional stagnation increment for the purpose of pension is only extended to the workmen and officers who were otherwise eligible and had retired during the period from 01.11.2012 to 30.04.2015 with the provisions of monetary benefit from 01.05.2015 under 10th Bipartite -Settlement.
- 3. With respect to 1110 Bipartite requisite instructions for implementation are already in place vide Circulars No. CDO/P&HRD-IR/6612020-21 and CDO/P&HRD-IR/67/2020-21 dated 21.12.2020 for employees (Award Staff and Officers up to Scale-JV) who were otherwise eligible and had retired during the period from 01.11,2017 to 31.10.2020 with monetary benefit from 01.11 .2020. However, clarification for passing on similar benefit to Scale-V officers is awaited from IBA.
- 4. Accordingly, the PPG teams at LHOs are instructed to extend the benefit of notional stagnation increment for the purpose of pension to all employees up to Scale-IV under 10th and 11th Bipartite Settlements and ensure meticulous compliance of the instruction issued under aforesaid circulars.
- 5. The granular data of employees retired during **01.11.2012** to **30.042015** of 10th Bipartite Settlement and **01.11.2017** to **31.10.2020** of 11th Bipartite Settlement extracted from HRMS will be sent via email. The extracted data is to be used for furnishing details in the attached formats (Annexure I & II) for our review and monitoring. Brief gu1derines are also enclosed for completion of the exercise in holistic manner-and the first status report is to be submitted by **15.09.2022**.

Yours faithfully,

Sd.

(S T Lama)
For Chief General Manager (HR)
Ph:022-2274 1670

The reason that man is seldom satisfied with his salary is that when it increases, he increases his expenses.

- Mokokoma Mokhonoana

Guidelines for Completion of release of Stagnation Increment:

- > Check and collate the data in Annexure-I and Annexure-11 format from the extract provided,
- ➤ Check whether employees, who retired during 01.11.2012 to 30.04.2015 of 10th Bipartite Settlement and 01.11.2017 to 31.10.2020 of 11th Bipartite Settlement, eligible for stagnation as per circular CDO/P&HRD-PPFG/55/2021-22 dated 08.10.2021 and CDO/P&HRD0IR/66/ 2020-21 & CDO/P&HRDIR/67/2020-21 dated 21.12.2020.
- > Collate information-from HRMS & Pension files and compile the data on release of stagnation increment and pension revision of all eligible employees.
- ➤ Identify employees, who retired during aforesaid period, for whom stagnation increment is to be released and co-ordinate with respective controllers (where employee was last posted) for release of such increments and accordingly revise the pension.
- > Provide the status of implementation to the Corporate Centre every week and first status report needs to be sent on 15.09.2022.

Table explaining everything regarding Stagnation Increments in terms of Bipartite Settlement/Joint Note Dated 25.05.2015 & 11.11.2020.

Category/ Particulars	Joint Note/BPS dt. 25.05.2010	Joint Note/BPS dt. 11.11.2020				
Period affected	Those who retired during the period from $01.11.2012$ to $30.04.2015$	Those who retired during the period from 01.11.2017 to 30.10.2020				
Stagnation	rule					
JMGS I	Four increments at the interval of three years each after reaching maximum of Scale II. First two at Rs.1,310/- and next two at Rs.1,460/-	Five increments st the interval of two years each after reaching maximum of Scale II. First two at Rs.1,990/- & next three at Rs.2,220/				
MMGS II	Three increments of Rs.1,460/- at the interval of three years each after reaching the maximum of Scale III. Fourth stagnation increment of Rs.1,460/- after two years after third stagnation increment.	Five increments if Rs.2,220/- each at interval of two years after reaching maximum of Scale III.				
MMGS III	Four increments of Rs.1,460/- each at interval of three years after reaching maximum of Scale III. Fifth stagnation increment of Rs.1,460/- after two years after fourth stagnation increment.	Five increments if Rs.2,220/- each at interval of two years after reaching maximum of Scale III. First three stagnation increments are at Rs.2,220/- and next two stagnation increments are at Rs.2,500/				
SMGS IV	One increment of Rs.1,650/- three years after maximum of Scale.	Presently eligible for one stagnation increment of Rs. 2500/ two years after reaching maximum of scale. These officers will now be eligible for one additional stagnation increment of Rs. 2730/ after two years of receipt of first stagnation increment or w e f 01.11.2017,whichever is later.				
SMGS V	NIL	One increment of Rs.2,970/- after two years after reaching maximum of Scale.				
Clerical Staff	Eight stagnation increments of Rs.1,310/- after reaching maximum of the Scale. First five stagnation increments, each at interval of three years and next three (6th, 7th & 8th) increments each at interval of two years.	Nine stagnation increments of Rs.1,990/- each at interval of two years reaching maximum of the Scale.				
Subordinate Staff	Eight stagnation increments of Rs.655/each at interval if two years reaching maximum of the Scale.	Nine stagnation increments of Rs.1,000/- each at interval of two years reaching maximum of the Scale.				



eCircular

Department: P&HRD SI.No.: 661/2022 - 23

Circular No.: CDO/P^HRD-PPFG/37/2022 - 23

Date: Fri 9 Sep 2022

The Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Local Head Office, All Circles / CCG / CAG / SARG etc.

Madam / Dear Sir,

SBI HEALTH CARE/ SBI RETIRED EMPLOYEES' MEDICAL BENEFIT SCHEME (SBI REMBS) REVISED PROCEDURE FOR REGISTRATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Please refer to eCircular No. CDO/P&HRD-PM/46/2006-07 dated 16th November, 2006, wherein detailed guidelines pertaining to operations of SBI Retired Employees' Medical Benefit Scheme (SBI REMBS), including procedure for applying for membership was laid down. Subsequently, REMBS portal was launched and the process flow for applying membership was amended w.e.f. 10.09.2018 vide eCircular No. CDO/P&HRDPPFG/38/2018-19 dated 07.09.2018. SBI REMBS was renamed as "One Time Payment Plan (OTPP)" and "SBI Health Care" vide eCircular No. CDO/P&HRD-PPFG/65/2019-20 dated 27.12.2019.

- 2. It has now been decided to amend the procedure for applying for membership of SBI Health Care (SBI REMBS) to make the process fast and paperless. Accordingly, a new functionality "SBI Health Care (SBI REMBS) Enrollment" has been introduced in HRMS. The features of the functionality are as under:
- a) Eligibility: Eligibility of an applicant under the scheme will be based on data for the employee/ pensioner updated in HRMS and non-eligible employees/pensioners will not be able to apply for membership of the scheme.
- b) Data Updation in HRMS Any adverse development in the status of any employee/ pensioner (viz., Dismissal, retirement under Section 19(3) etc., which renders an employee/pensioner ineligible for membership under the scheme) must be arranged to be captured in HRMS immediately by the AO concerned.
- c) Online Application Online Application for SBI Health Care membership will be submitted by the eligible employee/ pensioner in HRMS and requirement of submission of physical declaration is dispensed with.
- d) Declaration Required declaration of the applicant for enrolment under the scheme shall be obtained online and submission of physical declaration is dispensed with.
- e) Subscription fee Payment of subscription fee will be debited to the account of the applicant maintained at the pension paying branch, authorization for which will be obtained digitally from the applicant under the functionality.
- f) Scrutiny & monitoring at AO/LHO No approval will be required at the AO/LHO level. However, the consolidated report of employees/ pensioners who have applied for membership of SBI Health Care (SBI REMBS) including the present status of the application will be available for viewing/ downloading at AO/LHO level for necessary scrutiny and to handle queries of the applicants.
- g) Rejection of ineligible applications After submission of application by an applicant, rejection of the application can be done only by the authorized official at Corporate Centre. If any application is to be rejected due to any adverse development in status of the employee/ pensioner, rendering him/ her ineligible under the scheme, Circles shall immediately intimate P&PM Department at Corporate Centre for rejection of the application.



- h) Approval On ratification of membership by the Trustees, membership will be approved in HRMS at Corporate Centre and the details of all such members will be submitted to Software Factory in GITC by HRMS Department for updation in the REMBS portal. The detailed process flow under the new functionality is enclosed as Annexure.
- 3. The revised process shall be applicable from the date of this circular. All new applications for SBI Health Care membership shall be submitted digitally through the new functionality in HRMS portal only and physical submission of application shall be dispensed with. Form C2 for manual applications received till date of this circular, if any, is to be submitted by the Circles to Corporate Centre latest by 15.09.2022.
- 4. Processing of reimbursement of claims under the scheme will be available in REMBS portal as hitherto.
- 5. DMD (HR) & CDO is authorized to issue clarifications/ guidelines in the matter, if any.
- 6. Please bring the contents of the Circular to the knowledge of all concerned for meticulous compliance.

Yours faithfully,

Sd.

(Om Prakash Mishra)

Dy. Managing Director (HR) & CDO

Annexure

Standard Operating Procedure

Eligible employees/ pensioners can enroll for SBI Health Care Scheme (SBI-REMBS) through HRMS (on HRMS portal only)

Stage 1 : Applying for SBI Health Care membership

- Employees can apply through Employee Self Service PF/Pension/Gratuity—SBI Health Care (SBI-REMBS) Pensioners can apply through Pensioners' Self Service SBI Health Care (SBI REMBS)
- 2. On clicking "Self-Apply" System displays personal details - details to be checked (The employee/ pensioner to check for accuracy of the personal details displayed. For any changes required in the personal details, the same can be changed in the portal and get it approved in the usual manner, before proceeding to apply for enrolment)
- On the next page, applicant can select suitable plan from "Select Plan" (Plan details can be viewed by pressing "click here to view plan details")
- 4. On the next page, family details fetched from system is displayed
- 5. On the next page, final overview displays selected plan and payment details. The applicant confirms his particulars and agrees to the conditions of the scheme by ticking the relevant box.

- 6. On the next page, undertaking for payment to be ticked before submission for debit
- 7. A pop-up window will open in which OTP sent to the registered mobile number is to be submitted
- 8. Once OTP is submitted, the account of the applicant is debited and payment reference number and journal number is displayed in a pop up window.
- On selecting "Download Application Form", the generated SBI Health Care application form along with payment receipt can be downloaded (The form and payment receipt can also be downloaded by selecting "View" option on the main page any time subsequently)

Stage 2 : Approval

- SBI Health Care application form along with payment receipt can be downloaded for any pensioner/employee by the authorised user at AO/ LHO/CC through the same menu.
- 3. Authorised official at Corporate Centre shall approve or reject ratification as applicable.



eCircular

Department: PBU-CONSUMER DURABLE & e-COM

Sl.No.: 664/2022 - 23

Circular No.: R&DB/PBU/CD&e-COM-GL/17/2022 -23

Date: Mon 12 Sep 2022

The Chief General Manager State Bank of India, Local Head Office, All Circles

Madam/Dear Sir.

PBBU: GOLD LOANS
REVIEW OF BULLET REPAYMENT GOLD LOAN AND
INTRODUCTION OF TWO NEW VARIANTS OF GOLD LOAN
(i) 3 MONTHS BULLET REPAYMENT GOLD LOAN
(ii) 6 MONTHS BULLET REPAYMENT GOLD LOAN

Presently, there are three variants of Gold Loans, i.e., EMI based, Bullet repayment and Liquid Gold Loan. All the variants have common features except margin, nature of facility, maximum loan period and repayment option.

- 02. Besides providing competitive rates of interest under Gold Loan, a need was felt to introduce innovative features to the existing Bullet Repayment Gold Loan to bring in a fair amount of flexibility under terms & conditions of the Scheme by introducing short term gold loans for maximum period of 3 and 6 months. Appraisal of the pledged gold is waived for two subsequent renewals provided the pledged gold remaining in the custody of Bank. The advance value will be derived as per current market value prevailing at the time of renewal.
- 03. This Bullet Repayment Gold Loan is having two new product variants i.e., for a maximum period of (i) 3 months and (ii) 6 months along with the existing maximum 12 months period.

All the variants are available with the most competitive pricing along with relaxed margin for the two new variants. These two new variants will facilitate Customers to renew the Gold Loans (maximum 2 times) without appraising the Gold Ornaments to meet their short-term requirements against the existing pledged gold ornaments/Jewellery subject to the pledged gold remains in the custody of Bank. The features of the product variants are annexed in Annexure -I, II & III for 3 months, 6 months and 12 months product respectively.

04. Please advise all the Operating Units under your control accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

S/d

(Devendra Kumar)

Chief General Manager (PB)

For annexures and details, which are not reproduced here due to space constraints, please refer to the original circular.

Our abode in this world is transitory, our life therein is but a loan, our breaths are numbered and our indolence is manifest.

- Abu Bakr



eCircular

Department: P&HRD SI.No.: 674/2022 - 23

Circular No.: CDO/P&HRD-PM/38/2022 - 23

Date: Wed 14 Sep 2022

The Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Local Head Office, All Circles / CCG / CAG / SARG etc.

Madam / Dear Sir,

STAFF: SUPERVISING AVAILING LTC/HTC VISITING FOREIGN DESTINATION ENROUTE JUDGEMENTS OF HON'BLE MADRAS HIGH COURT: CLARIFICATIONS

Please refer to our Circular No. CDO/P&HRD-PM/10/2014-15 dated 09.05.2014, CDO/P&HRD-PM/57/2014-15 dated 10.11.2014, CDO/P&HRD-PM/86/2014-15 dated 03.03.2015 and CDO/P&HRD-PM/24/2022-23 dated 20.07.2022 regarding availing of LTC/HTC visiting foreign destinations enroute.

- 2. In this connection, it may be noted that as a consequence of dismissal of the writ petition filed by the All India State Bank Officers' Federation (AISBOA) and All India Bank Officers' Federation (AIBOF) challenging the Bank's decision to withdraw LTC/HTC to visit overseas countries / centres, no employee of the Bank shall now be permitted to avail LTC/HTC which involves foreign / overseas travel w.e.f. 24.06.2022 i.e. the date of the order of the Hon'ble Madras High Court.
- 3. Further, different operational aspects of LTC/HTC scheme have been examined in the backdrop of above court order and with the approval of competent authority, it has been decided to issue following clarifications, for the convenience of the operating units:

Sr No	Scenario	Clarification	Treatment of LTC/HTC and payment of bills
i	Officials who have availed LTC/HTC enroute foreign destinations where approval and journey under LTC/HTC both completed before 24.06.2022 and bills claimed before or after 24.06.2022.	The journey shall be considered under LTC/HTC	LTC/HTC shall be treated availed and payment of LTC/HTC bills may be made within overall notional entitlement.
ii	Officials who have started journey under LTC/HTC before 24.06.2022 but completed the same after 24.06.2022	1	LTC/HTC shall be treated availed and payment of LTC/HTC bills may be made within overall notional entitlement.

Sr No	Scenario	Clarification	Treatment of LTC/HTC and payment of bills
iii	Officials and dependent family members of the officials who have opted for availing of LTC/HTC facility separately: Officials or family members have already availed / started journey under LTC/HTC enroute foreign destinations before 24.06.2022 but remaining person/s has started the journey under LTC/HTC after 24.06.2022 or yet to start the journey.	The journey shall be considered under LTC/HTC for the officials or the family members who have completed the journey before 24.06.2022. However, remaining person/s shall not be permitted to avail LTC/HTC enroute foreign destination. Only domestic travel shall be permitted for those remaining Officials or family members.	LTC/HTC shall be treated availed and payment of LTC/HTC bills may be made within overall notional entitlement for the officials or the family members who have completed the journey before 24.06.2022. Further, remaining officials / family members who have started the journey after 24.06.2022 or are yet to start the journey must complete onward/ return journey of domestic travel within 6 months from start of onward/ return journey.
iv	Officials have started their journey under LTC/HTC enroute foreign destinations during 24.06.2022 to 20.07.2022 on account of prior approval and prior booking of tickets etc.	As per extant instruction no employee of the Bank shall be permitted to avail LTC/HTC which involves foreign / overseas travel w.e.f. 24.06.2022	LTC/HTC shall be treated availed. However, the expenses occurred only on domestic travel shall be payable within overall notional entitlement, subject to production of Bill / Receipt / Invoice as per Bank's extant instructions. LTC / HTC advance, if any, to be adjusted accordingly.

- 4. The above clarifications shall be applicable to serving officers as well as retired officers who have availed LTC/HTC after retirement with prior approval from the competent authority.
- 5. Please arrange to bring the content of this circular to the knowledge of all concerned.

Yours faithfully,

Sd. (Lakshmi R. Srinivas)
CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (HR)





eCircular

Department: P&HRD SI.No.: 827/2022 - 23

Circular No.: CDO/P^HRD-PPFG/44/2022 - 23

Date: Sat 15 Oct 2022

The Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Local Head Office, All Circles / CCG / CAG / SARG etc.

Madam / Dear Sir,

SBI STAFF PENSIONERS/FAMILY PENSIONERS STANDARDIZATION OF IDENTITY CARDS

As per extant instructions the Staff pensioners /Family pensioners are issued Identity cards as per standard format by the Circle PPG Departments/Office Administration Department of CC establishments since June 2020. It is observed that there is no uniformity/standardization of its size, shape or contents and Identity cards issued are at great variance in design and content. We are also receiving feedback from various quarters, regarding Pensioner's Identity Card and Identity card for Pensioner with special Child.

- 2. With a view to enhance and safeguard the corporate brand image of the bank, the competent authority has decided to standardize the Identity Card being issued to Staff Pensioners /Family pensioners. This will bring uniformity for all the identity cards issued before/after June 2020. The QR code embedded ID card will have the required relevant details of the Staff Pensioners/Family Pensioners like designation at the time of retirement, retired from branch, mobile number, blood group etc. Further a provision has also been made to issue a separate ID Card for the special child which will carry his/her joint photograph along with the Staff Pensioner and Family Pensioner.
- 3. The detailed instruction for issuance of standardized ID Cards for Pensioners/Staff Pensioners are listed as under:
 - i. Standard Operating procedure (SOP) & Guidelines to be followed by the Circle PPG Departments and Pensioners for issuance of ID Card is as placed at Annexure I.
 - ii. The Specimen Format of ID Card to be issued to Pensioner/Family Pensioner is placed at Annexure II.
 - iii. The Specimen Format of ID Card to be issued to Pensioners having Special Child Annexure III.
 - iv. Two ID cards are to be generated for pensioners with disabled child one with joint photograph with the spouse and the other with joint photograph with the special child (wherever applicable). and both the ID cards to be delivered to the pensioner.
 - v. The ID card issued to the special child will not entitle the child to any rights and will be for identification purpose only. A suitable disclaimer in this regard is put in the ID card format.
 - vi. Circle PPG Departments to ensure that the branches contact the pensioners for updation of all required fields so that ID card generation is available for all pensioners.
 - vii. Circle PPG Departments/Office Administration Department of CC establishments to generate a list of retiring officials well in advance, update missing details, if any, and arrange for printing of the Identity Cards so that Identity card is delivered to retiring officials on the day of retirement, as hitherto.
 - viii. The HRMS Department has developed the facility for this purpose.
- 4.Please bring the contents of the circular to the knowledge of all concerned for meticulous compliance.

Yours faithfully,

Sd

(Ranjan Gupta)

Chief General Manager (HR)

Standard Operating Procedure

Circle PPG Departments:

- 1. Circle PPG Departments will generate ID cards for all pensioners where all required details are fetched, and ID cards are generated.
- The ID cards generated will be printed on plastic cards through the local vendor arranged for printing of staff ID cards.
- Circle PPG Departments will arrange for delivery of the ID cards printed and will keep record of the cards issued.
- 4. Circle PPG Departments to contact the pensioners whose ID cards is not generated for want of details.
- 5. Two ID cards are to be generated for pensioners with disabled child - one with joint photograph with the spouse and the other with joint photograph with the special child and both the ID cards to be delivered to the pensioner.
- 6. Whenever a lost card is received at a Branch, the Branch will arrange to forward the lost card to the pension paying branch. Pension paying branch will arrange to send the lost card to the respective pensioner.

Pensioners:

- 1. Pensioners will contact their pension paying branch/ Circle PPG Department for issuance of the new OR code embedded ID card.
- Alternatively, they can also generate their ID card by logging in to HRMS portal/ myHRMS app with their credentials and get it printed themselves on plastic card or get it laminated at their own cost.
- 3. Pensioners with special child will be able to upload a joint photograph of the pensioner with the special child.
- 4. Pensioners will be able to generate two ID cards, one bearing the joint photograph of the pensioner with the spouse and the other bearing the joint photograph of the pensioner with the special child (wherever applicable).
- 5. In cases where the ID card is not generated for want of details, the same may be updated by the pensioner on HRMS portal/ myHRMS app and get the same approved by the pension paying branch. Alternatively, they can visit the branch to get the details updated through the Branch.

The Managing Committee of the Indian Banks' Association re-elected

A.K. GOEL, MD & CEO, Punjab National Bank, as the Chairman of IBA for 2022-23.

The Committee also elected Three Deputy Chairmen:

DINESH KUMAR KHARA, Chairman, SBI (re-elected),

A.S. RAJEEV, MD & CEO, Bank of Maharashtra,

MADHAV NAIR, Country Head & CEO, Mashreq Bank PSC.

N. KAMAKODI, MD & CEO, City Union Bank, has been elected as the Honorary Secretary.

- Business Line

Fund paucity not valid ground to withhold pensionary benefits: HC

Saurabh Malik

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 5

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has made it clear that the paucity of funds is not a valid ground to withhold the pensionary benefits of employees

Justice Harsimran Singh Sethi of the HC also made it clear to the State of Haryana and other respondents that the pensionary benefits, released to two of its retired employees, would also carry 6 per cent annual interest from the due date till the day of actual payment.

The matter was brought to Justice Sethi's notice after Giraj Singh and another petitioner moved the courtagainst the State of Haryana and other respondents. Among other things, they contended that the pensionary benefits were not being released by the respondents on the ground of paucity of funds, although they retired from the service on March 31, 2021, on attaining

'Retirement benefits must be computed and released within two months in the absence of impediments'

Justice Sethi took note of the fact that the respondents, following the issuance of notice of motion, filed their reply mentioning that the benefits stood released on April 5. But the contention of the petitioners' counsel was that the benefits were released after a delay. As such, the petitioners were entitled to the grant of interest.

Justice Sethi also took note of the arguments by the counsel for the respondents that there was paucity of funds and the same was a valid reason for not releasing the pensionary benefits. Their claim for the grant of interest may, as such, needed to be declined.

After hearing the rival contentions and going through the the ground mentioned by the respondents to withhold the benefits was not available to them keeping in view the settled principle of law. It was a conceded position that both petitioners retired on March 31 last year, but the retirement benefits were paid on April 5.

Referring to a full Bench judgment of the HC, Justice Sethi said the retirement benefits were to be computed and released within two months in the absence of impediments. "Let the respondents calculate the interest within two months from receiving the order's certified copy and the amount so calculated shall be paid to the petitionersa month thereafter," Justice Sethi asserted, while making it clear that the order would be applicable to other

News in Focus ...



Indian Banks' Association

Retail Banking

No. RBMBR/SCSS10161 Dated July 22, 2021

The Chairman/ Managing Director & Chief Executive Officers of All Member Banks

SENIOR CITIZENS SAVINGS SCHEME) Rules, 2004-PREMATURE WITHDRAWAL, IN CASE OF DEATH

We refer to the "Senior Citizens Savings Scheme" rules published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) vide notification number GSR490 (E), dated the 2nd August 2004 (copy enclosed).

- 2. In this regard, we have come across complaint (s) that some Banks while processing settlement / premature payment of the accounts to the legal heirs nominee of the deceased depositor under the captioned scheme are treating the same as premature withdrawal and levying 'penal interest'.
- 3. In this context, we refer to the amendment made vide notification dated July 28. 2010, in the Rule &, subrule (3) of the SCSS rules, 2004. The amendment provides that Quote in case of death of a depositor before maturity, the account shall be closed and deposit refunded on an application in Form 'F along with interest as applicable to the scheme till the date on which the depositor expired to the nominee or legal heirs in case the nominee has also expired or nomination as provided in rule 6 was not made, as the case may be. "Unquote. A copy of the amendment is enclosed for your ready reference.
- 4. Further, we refer to Rule & sub rule (5) of the SCSS rules, 2004 that clearly provides that "No deduction, as specified under rule (9), shall be made in case of premature closure of an account at any time due to death of a depositor."
- 5. Hence, we request all member banks to be guided by the SCSS rules to avoid any complaints Further, we suggest the member hanks o devise a mechanism for capturing the closure premature reason in their Core Banking System/ Solution (CBS) for seamless processing of such applications received from the customers.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

KS AMBALAGAN

SENIOR ADVISOR RETAIL & SOCIAL

Reproduced text of IBA letter to Banks, for information of members



Stages of life are artifacts. Adolescence is a useful contrivance, midlife is a moving target, senior citizens are an interest group, and tweenhood is just plain made up.

- Jill Lepore

News in Focus ...

भारत सरकार वित्त मन्त्रालय, व्यय विभाग केन्द्रीय पेंशन लेख कार्यालय त्रिकूट-।। भीकाजी कामा प्लेस नई दिल्ली-110066



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE CENTRAL PENSION ACCOUNTING OFFICE TRIKOOT-II, BHIKAJI CAMA PLACE, NEW DELHI-110068 PHONES: 20174590, 20174438, 20174438

CPAO/IT & Tech/Bank Performance/37 Vol-III/6476/2022-23 / 17-5

14.10.2022

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub:- Alert to pensioners- Beware of fraud calls - reg.

It has come to notice of this office that the cyber malefactors have been calling to pensioners to update their Life Certificate by getting their data from somewhere as date of appointment, date of retirement, PPO number, Aadhaar number, e-mail, address, monthly pension, nominee etc. The fraudsters call pensioners with their data to convince them that they are calling from Pension Department and ask the pensioners to share OTP for updating their Life Certificate. Once they get OTP from pensioners, the fraudsters get direct access to their bank accounts and transfer the amount from pensioners' account to a fraud account.

- In this regard, all the pensioners are cautioned to beware of these type of fraud calls and intimated that no person on behalf of CPAO calls to pensioners to ask any detail or share OTP. Therefore, all the pensioners are advised not to share OTP or any other detail etc. for any updation for pension to avoid such frauds.
- Scheme Booklet of CPAO (Para 14) may be referred for submission of certificates and different modes available with pensioners for submission of Life Certificate. Department of Pension and Pensioner's Welfare (DoP&PW) OM No. 1(8)/2021-P&PW(H)-7468 dated 30th September, 2022 (copy enclosed) regarding submission of Annual Life Certificate may also be referred.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Encl:-As above

(Amit Malhan)

(Dy. Controller of Accounts)

To

- 1. All the stakeholders for awareness.
- Heads of CPPCs of All Authorized Banks (as per list)- To spread awareness among pensioners to avoid frauds and take cognizance of DoP&PW OM No. 1(8)/2021-P&PW(H)-7468 dated 30th September, 2022 regarding submission of Annual Life Certificate.

Copy to:

- 1. PS to CC (P), CPAO
- 2. PA to CA, CPAO
- 3. Sr. TD. NIC (CPAO)- to upload on website of CPAO.

No. 42/15/2022-P&PW(D)/5
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, P.G. & Pensions
Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare

3rd Floor, Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market, New Delhi-110003 Date:- 25th Oct, 2022

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub:- Clarification regarding whether deductions towards commutation are required to be made from family pension for the remaining period in cases where the pensioner dies before the restoration of commuted pension-reg

In accordance with Rule 5 of CCS (Commutation of Pension) Rules, 1981, a Government servant can commute for a lump-sum payment of an amount not exceeding 40 per cent of his pension. Further, in accordance with Rule 10-A of CCS (Commutation of Pension) Rules, 1981 the commuted amount of the pension shall be restored on completion of fifteen years from the date of reduction of pension on account of commutation becomes operative in accordance with Rule 6.

- References/representations have been received in this Department seeking clarification whether deduction towards commutation are required to be made from family pension for the remaining period in cases where the pensioner dies before the restoration of commuted pension.
- It is clarified that in such cases monthly commuted amount of pension is not required to be deducted from family pension and family pension shall be paid in full without any deduction in this regard.

No deduction of commutation instalment from family pension

(Charanjit Taneja) Under Secretary

- All Ministries/Departments of the Government of India (as per standard distribution list).
- C&AG of India, UPSC, etc. as per standard endorsement list.

KNOMS AOA DO You can now opt to file your Life Certificate online? Follow the Bank's guidelines in the matter.

- 1. eCircular: PBU-SI No. 1269/2018-19, Cir No. NBG/PBU/LIMA-SB/20/2018-19, Dt. 19 Dec 2018.
- 2. eCircular: GAD SI No.772/2022-23, Cir No. NBG/GAD-Pension/14/2022-23, Dt. 3 Oct 2022.

THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA CIVIL APPELLATE JURISDICTION, CIVIL APPEAL NO. 4100 OF 2022

Shri M.L. Patil (Dead) Through LRs ...Appellant(s)

Versus

The State of Goa and Anr. ...Respondent(s)

Date of Judgement: May 20, 2022 Coram: M.R. SHAH, J. & B.V. NAGARATHNA

Brief facts of the Case

- 1. The original writ petitioner of writ petition No. 961/2015 and others filed the writ petitions before the High Court of Bombay at Goa challenging the action of the respondents in superannuating/ retiring them at the age of 58 years. According to them, the retirement age was 60 years. By the impugned judgment and order, the High Court has held that the retirement age of the respective original writ petitioners was 60 years and they were wrongly superannuated/ retired at the age of 58 years. However, as the respective writ petitioners approached the High Court belatedly, the High Court has held that none of the writ petitioners shall be entitled to any salary/ back wages for the period of two extra years they would have got in service. The High Court has also observed that though the writ petitioners would be entitled to the pension on the basis that they continued in service until they attain the age of 60 years, they would not be entitled to any arrears of pension and the pension at the revised rates will become payable only from 1st January, 2020.
- 2. Feeling aggrieved and dissatisfied with the impugned judgment and order passed by the High Court to the extent of denying the back wages for the two extra years period and disentitling to any arrears of pension and that the pension at the revised rates will become payable only from 1st January, 2020, the original writ petitioner of Writ Petition No. 961/2015 had preferred the present appeal.

Supreme Court observations

3.Considering the fact that even by the impugned judgment and order, the High Court has held that action of the State Government in requiring the original petitioners to retire at the age of 58 years or not permitting them to continue in their service up to the age of 60 years as illegal and null and void, the SC was off the view that the High Court had erred in observing that the appellant would not be entitled to any arrears of pension and the pension at the revised rates will become payable only from 1st January, 2020. As such, the High Court may be right and/or justified in denying any salary for the period of two extra years to the writ petitioners if they would have continued in service, on the ground of delay. However, as far as the pension is concerned, it is a continuous cause of action. There is no justification at all for denying the arrears of pension as if they would have been retired/superannuated at the age of 60 years. There is no justification at all for the High Court to order denial of the pension at the revised rates and payable only as from 1st January, 2020. Under the circumstances, the impugned judgment and order passed by the High Court is required to be modified to the aforesaid extent.

Judgement

4. The present Appeal succeeds in Part. The impugned judgment and order passed by the High Court to the extent of denying any arrears of pension and holding that the appellant shall be entitled to the pension at the revised rates only from 1st January, 2020 is hereby quashed and set aside. It is held and ordered that the appellant – original writ petitioner shall be entitled to pension at the revised rates from the date he attains the age of 60 years. Now the arrears accordingly shall be paid to the appellant within a period of four weeks from the day of judgment. Present Appeal is Partly Allowed to the aforesaid extent. In the facts of the case, there shall be no order as to costs.

Complied by M L Khandelwal (Ed: The above is just a gist of the judgment. Reference may be made to relevant source manuals, for details.)

Eye of Law ...

THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) NO....... Of 2022 / [DIARY NO. 27824 OF 2020]

STATE OF RAJASTHAN & OTHERS PETITIONERS VERSUS O.P. GUPTARESPONDENT

(1.Denial of pension is a continuing wrong and it cannot be oblivious to the difficulties of a retired employee in approaching the courts, which could include financial constraints.

2. It is settled law that when financial rules framed by the Government such as Pension Rules are capable of more interpretations than one, the Courts should lean towards that interpretation which goes in favour of the employee).

Date of Judgment : SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 Coram J. INDIRA BANERJEE & J. J.K. MAHESHWARI

Brief facts of the case

- 1. The Respondent was initially appointed as an Assistant Charge Man in the Rajasthan Agriculture Engineering Board, Department of Agriculture, and Government of Rajasthan w.e.f. 13th January 1967. The Board was subsequently merged with the Rajasthan State Agro Industry Corporation. Accordingly, the services of the Respondent were transferred to the Rajasthan State Agro Industry Corporation vide transfer order dated 8th July 1970, on the same pay scale. He worked with Rajasthan State Agro Industry Corporation continuously till 12th April 1977. Subsequently the respondent was selected for the post of Assistant Director (Agro-Industries) Department of Industries, State of Rajasthan by Rajasthan Public Service Commission. He joined service in the Department of Industries on 16th April 1977. The Respondent while serving in the Department of Industries, attained the age of superannuation and retired on 30th April 2003 from the post of Additional Director of Industries, Headquarter, and Jaipur. However, while counting the length of service of the Respondent for the purpose of calculating pension and other retiral benefits, the Petitioners did not count the tenure from 13th January 1967 to 12th April 1977 (i.e. the period for which the Respondent worked for the Rajasthan Agriculture Engineering Board and the Rajasthan State Agro Industry Corporation). The Respondent submitted representations to the Department of Industries requesting that his service tenure from 13th January 1967 to 12th April 1977 be counted for the purposes of his pension and retiral benefits. However, the request for counting the service tenure from 13th January 1967 to 12th April 1977 was not granted.
- 2. Aggrieved, with the decision of Govt of Rajasthan, the Respondent filed. S.B. Civil Writ Petition No.5879 of 2009 before the Single Judge, Rajasthan High Court on or about 20th March 2009. The moot point for consideration before the Single Judge was, whether service rendered by the Respondent/Writ Petitioner prior to resignation from the Rajasthan State Agro Industry Corporation should be counted for the purpose of pension. By a Judgment and Order dated 5th May 2017, the Single Bench allowed S.B. Civil Writ Petition No. 5879 of 2009 and held that the service rendered by the Respondent with the Rajasthan Agriculture Engineering Board and the Rajasthan State Agro Industry Corporation, was liable to be counted, while computing pension/ other pensionary benefits of the Respondent. The Writ Petition was disposed of with a direction to compute the total pensionable service of the Respondent and release his pension and retiral benefits including arrears of pension with interest @ 9% p.a. within a period of three months from the date of the submission of the certified copy of the order.
- 3. Petitioners did not comply with the Judgment and order of Single Bench and filed an appeal before Double Bench (Writ No 443 of 2018. The Respondent also filed a Contempt Petition, being S.B. Civil Contempt Petition No. 265 of 2018 alleging non-compliance of the Judgment and order dated 5th May 2017 in spite of knowledge thereof. It was submitted that a copy of the judgment and order had been served on the Petitioners on 15th May 2017 by registered post.

Eye of Law ...

- 4. By an order dated 14th March 2018 in S.B. Civil Contempt Petition No. 265 of 2018, the High Court directed the Petitioners to comply with the judgment and order dated 5th May 2017 within 15 days, failing which the Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Industries, Government of Rajasthan would have to be present in Court and explain the reasons/circumstances for non-compliance.
- 5. By the impugned Judgment and Order dated 28th November 2019, the Division Bench of the High Court dismissed the Writ Appeal Writ No. 443 of 2018 with the following observations:
- "...Admittedly, service of the respondent under the Rajasthan Agriculture Engineering Board was pensionable. As per Rule 25(2) of the Rajasthan Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1996, resignation shall not entail forfeiture of past service if it has been submitted to take up, with proper permission, another appointment whether temporary or permanent, under the Government where service qualifies.

Hence, learned Single Judge has rightly held service rendered by the respondent with Rajasthan Agriculture Engineering Board and Rajasthan Agro Industry Corporation was liable to be counted while computing pension/other pensionary benefits of the respondent."

6. Aggrieved with the order of Double Bench of Rajasthan High Court State of Rajasthan filed Special Leave petition at Supreme Court.

Observations of the Supreme Court

- I. The State is bound by the fundamental rights of its employees under Articles 14 to 16 of the Constitution of India. It is now well settled that arbitrariness violates the right to equality under Articles14 to 16 of the Constitution of India.
- II. Respondent-Writ Petitioner is claiming pension, which is a lifelong benefit. Denial of pension is a continuing wrong. This Court cannot also be oblivious to the difficulties of a retired employee in approaching the Court, which could include financial constraints.
- III. It is settled law that when financial rules framed by the Government such as Pension Rules are capable of more interpretations than one, the Courts should lean towards that interpretation which goes in favour of the employee.

Judgement/Order of Supreme Court

The High Court has rendered a just decision based on a purposive interpretation of Rule 25(2) of the Rules applied to the admitted facts on record. The interpretation given by the High Court to Rule 25(2) of the Rules is a plausible interpretation. We, therefore, find no grounds to interfere with the impugned judgment and order passed by the High Court. The Special Leave Petition is, accordingly, dismissed.

Compiled by

M L Khandelwal

Ed: The above is only gist of the judgment. Reference may be made to original judgment for full details. Emphasis above is ours.

The above judgments, in our view, may hold a bright prospect for a) Pension being decreed by SC as a continuous one, the Pension updation should be from date of retirement b) arrears too should be from the date of retirement).

DUE TO SPACE CONSTRAINTS, WE COULD NOT BRING OUT THE HEALTH CARE FEATURE IN THIS ISSUE.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA CIVIL ORIGINAL JURISDICTION SPECIAL LEAVE TO APPEAL (C) NO. 5561/2016

M.C. Singla and Ors. .. . Petitioners

Versus

Union of India & Ors. Respondents

- 1.That the Committee formed by the Indian Banks' Association, for pension updation, discussed all aspects and also heard the Representatives of various Workman Unions and Officers Associations the Committee has concluded as follows:-
- (i) That the Indian Banks' Association i.e., is an association of Banks and it negotiates with the Workman Unions/Officers Associations of the Member Banks on the basis of specific mandate by Banks negotiates revision of Salary and allowances for employees of such Member Banks.
- (ii) That Pension was not generally prevailing in Banks and that in the Bipartite Settlement signed with the Workmen Unions on 29.10.1993 and in a Joint Note signed with the Officers Associations also on 29.10.1993, it was agreed for the first time between the Parties that Pension would be introduced as Second Retirement benefit in lieu of Banks' Contribution to Provident Fund. The said Bipartite Settlement and Joint Note finally culminated in framing of the Statutory Regulations by the respective Member Banks titled as Pension Regulations 1995 framed in exercise of the powers by the Board of Directors of the respective Member Banks under Section 19 of the Banking Companies (A & T of Undertakings) Act, 1970/1980 with the prior approval of Central Government. These Pensions Regulations 1995 have been notified in the Official Gazette on 29.09.1995. The Employees/ Officers who opted for Pension in lieu of their Banks contribution of PF, within the specified period either refunded (if already paid) or authorized the respective PF Trusts (if in employment) to transfer to their Banks their contributions to PF to the respective Pension Funds with them. Additionally, contributions were also accordingly made to the Pension Funds by the employees and Banks based on the Actuarial Calculations. Hence, the Pension Funds of the Member Banks for the payment of pension there from have been created by the contribution from the Bank Employees and Officers and NOT from any Government Grant. The Banks' Employees and Officers have given up one benefit of Provident Fund contribution from the Employer to get the benefit of Pension. The shortfall in the Pension Fund maintained by the Banks is this funded from their own Revenue by the respective Banks based on Actuarial Calculations. No contribution is made from the Government in these Pension Funds.
- (iii) That while the Basic Pension is fixed at the time of superannuation based on the Basic Pay plus other eligible pay components, the Dearness Relief thereon is also given to the Employees based on the Index as applicable to in-service Bank Employees updated at Semi-Annual frequency as per the provisions in BEPR, 1995.
- (iv) That so far as the Pension being paid to the Central Government Employees is not paid out of any Pension Fund created by contribution made by the Employees/Officers In while in Government service but is treated as a Revenue Expenditure and paid out of Budget Allocation.
- (v) That there is no provision in Pension Regulations in 1995 (BEPR, 1995) for any Updation in the Pension of Bank Employees and Officers. That, therefore, it would neither be appropriate in-principle nor would be financially viable for the Banks to accept the Representation/Claim of the Employees for Updation of Pension at par with Central Government Employees, particularly, when there is no parity between the two sets of Employees i.e. the Central Government Employees and Bank Employees, inter-alia, for the reasons

that the Pension in the Banks is paid out of Pension Funds created out of the Banks contribution to the PF, whereas, in respect of Central Government Employees the Pension is paid NOT out of Pension Fund but is treated as Revenue Expenditure and paid out of Budgetary Allocation.

- (vi) That in view of the foregoing, it would neither be appropriate nor possible for the Banks to consider the request of the Representation/Claim requesting for Updation of Pension.
- 2. It is further most respectfully submitted that Indian Banks' Association i.e., Respondent No.3 in the present Petition, as mentioned hereinabove, is an association of Banks and is neither the State nor the instrumentality of State and therefore, Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India is not maintainable against the Indian Banks' Association.

Ed: Three above situation of filing an Affidavit arose when The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide order dated 20.01.2022 directed IBA to submit within three months appropriate report regarding decision taken on the proposal, if the decision cannot be reached, the Indian Bank's Association must submit interim report before the next date of hearing. List these matters after three months. However, the Affidavit was submitted in the last week of August 2022.

The above is only a gist of the affidavit, for information of members, and reference may be made to its original for full details.

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