



Dear Readers,

I am glad to hand over the Volume-IV, Year – 5 of AIACE Today in the hand of readers. In the FY 2023- 24, the coal ministry, Coal India, Singreni collieries, NTPC, NLC India Ltd and other PSUs involved in coal production and other private players made a spectacular performance for fulfilling the domestic need. Coal meets about 55% of the total power need of the country. Coal India led the coal production and achieved 774 MT of coal against the target of 780 MT. The Gevra and Kusmunda mines of SECL achieved more than 50 MT of coal production in 2023-24 surpassing the previous record. This has been achieved by rising to the occasion with and attacking the problems from all the fronts. Massive land acquisition, adoption of new technology, and capital infusion made it possible the achievement.

The coal ministry along with coal production also embarked upon the employee welfare. AIACE/AICPA has been struggling for reforms in working of CMPF organization. It is happy to note that more than 1 lakh of coal pensioners, getting less than Rs 1000/ as monthly pension, have started getting minimum pension of Rs 1000/ for which AIACE congratulates the beneficiaries. AIACE also thanks the government for arriving at this benevolent decision. For hassle free start of pension to spouse, in case of death of coal pensioners, the CMPFO has started issuing revised PPO mentioning the name and entitlement of the spouse. But, it is so sad to note that, no action has been taken by the CMPFO for including the names of eligible Diygang children of the coal pensioners in the light of last gazette notification in this regard. AIACE/AICPA has been suggesting the government, coal companies and CMPFO for easing the issuance of revised PPO by involving pension paying banks for collecting the needed data like Aadhar card and PAN card of spouse of the beneficiary but the companies have not shown the positive action and have taken a long route and collecting many unnecessary documents. This shows the poor vision of the oragnisation. The procedure adopted is not giving adequate result and not more than 10% pensioners have been issued the revised PPO. The coal companies, CMPFO and coal ministry need to take call on the suggestion forwarded by AIACE/AICPA.

I feel sorry to inform that the revised PPO issue has created such a situation which motivated the fraudsters to loot the coal pensioners. The fraudsters have become active and they are contacting pensioners posing to be employees of CMPFO, pressuring the pensioners over phone and frequently obtaining PIN and other details to siphon out the money from the bank. Many of the pensioners have become victim of such fraud which has been reported to the government, CMPFO and companies, and on our representation, coal companies and CMPFOs are issuing advisory for pensioners to be aware of such frauds. AIACE/AIACPA have ben counselling its members through different social media platforms about such frauds and to adopt precautionary measures.

Our struggle is continuing for resolution of pay conflict of executives with that of wage board employees, revision of pension under CMPS 1998, smoothening of treatment and reimbursement under CPRMS and others.

Lastly, we come to say that AIACE, not only raises and resolve the issues of coal executives and employees, but also give opportunity to members to connect with each other. AIACE has formed coal clubs at Delhi, Varanssi, Patna, Asansol, Kolkata, Ranchi, Bilaspur, Nagpur, Bengaluru and at other places where members and their spouses meet frequently, organise cultural programmes for entertainment. Recently, programmes were organized by above local coal clubs.

The activities of AIACE/AICPA have been slowed down due to ensuing Lok Sabha election and we will again start after June 2024. All members should be ready to join our struggle for common cause.

Regards,

P. K. Singh Rathor