

CHAPTER-VII

AIACE-AICPA PENSION MEMORANDUMS



Today, on 22nd June, 2024, in Narsapuram, Andhra Pradesh, Sri RCV Raju, Retd Dy General Manager (Personnel), Singareni Collieries Co Ltd and member of All India Coal Pensioners Association (AICPA) called on Sri Perala Mohan Garu, PA to Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister for Finance, Govt of India. He handed over a representation signed by Sri PK Singh Rathor, Convenor AIACE/AICPA and requested him to kindly place this representation for her kind perusal for revision of pension to coal employees. The letter to Smt Nirmala Sitharaman is given below:-



2024_AICPA_CENTRAL_007

Dated 22 /6 /2024

To
Hon'ble Smt. Nirmala Seetharaman ji,
Honourable Minister of Finance,
Government of India,
New Delhi

Sub: Request for taking up coal pensioners' issue with the coal minister for enhancement of pension to them.

Hon'ble Madam,

We, on behalf of All India Coal Pensioners Association (AICPA) extend you our best wishes on assuming charge of Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs.

We are an association of serving and retired coal executives and employees of Coal India Ltd and Singareni Collieries Co Ltd. We have also a sister association namely All India Association of Coal Executives (AIACE), in which executive employees of CIL and SCCL are included as members. Last, but not the least, we also have under our umbrella, the dependent spouse(s) of our deceased colleagues who are honoured in our body as Associates.

It is brought to your kind notice that many pensioners are getting less than Rs 1000/- per month in spite of working in dirty environment for long years for meeting the energy requirement of the country. Even the highest Board level and below board level executives who retired before 2007 are getting a meagre pension, insufficient to lead comfortable life.

The coal pensioners are covered under Coal Mines Pension Scheme called CMPSP-1998. This scheme was notified on 31st March 1998, and presently approximately 6 lakhs pensioners are receiving pension under the scheme. For providing pension, fund is generated out of earnings from a corpus which is created out of contribution of working employees.

It is projected that gross mismanagement of Fund has led to erosion of initial corpus. In 2017, Parliamentary Accounts Committee (PAC) report had pointed out several irregularities and mismanagement of corpus fund and asked government for remedial measures and restructuring which was agreed by Government in 2019. However, it is a pity that authorities are yet to arrive at a solution and arrange for missing corpus that could have enhanced pension amount and linked it with rising inflation. This is to reiterate that, pension once fixed, has remained constant over the years in spite of provision for review of scheme every three years and for enhancement of pension.

It is apprehended that, officials at coal ministry, though convinced for pension revision are unable for an early resolution in absence of proper direction from various wings of government.

We shall be highly obliged to you for extending support to our cause and use your good office for resolving this critical issue by taking up with the coal minister as poor pensioners are on the verge of starvation with the present pension amount.

With Regards,

P K SINGH RATHOR
Convenor, AIACE/AICPA



On 22nd June, 2024, in Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh, Sri RCV Raju, Retd Dy General Manager (Personnel), Singareni Collieries Co Ltd and member of All India Coal Pensioners Association (AICPA) called on Sri Bhupathiraju Srivasa Varma Garu, Union Minister of State for Ministry of Heavy Industries, Govt of India, and handed over a representation from AIACE/AICPA requesting him to forward the representation to Sri G Kishan Reddy Garu Union Minister Ministry of Coal for revision of CMPS 1998. Copy of the letter to Sri Varma is given below:-

दि. 22 जून 2024 को, भीमावरम, आंध्र प्रदेश में, श्री आरसीवी राजू, सेवानिवृत्त उप महाप्रबंधक (कार्मिक), सिंगरेनी कोलियरीज कंपनी लिमिटेड और ऑल इंडिया कोल पेंशनर्स एसोसिएशन (एआईसीपीए) के सदस्य ने श्री भूपतिराजू श्रीवास वर्मा गारू, केंद्रीय राज्य मंत्री, भारी उद्योग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, से मुलाकात की और एआईसीपीए/एआईसीपीए की ओर से एक प्रतिनिधित्व सौंपा, जिसमें सीएमपीएस 1998 में संशोधन के लिए श्री जी कृशान रेड्डी गारू, केंद्रीय कोयला मंत्री, को प्रतिनिधित्व अग्रेषित करने का अनुरोध किया गया। श्री वर्मा को लिखे पत्र की प्रति नीचे दी गई है:-



2024_AICPA_CENTRAL_006

Dated 22 /6 /2024

To
Hon'ble Shri Bhupathi Raju Srinivasa Varma ji,
Honourable Minister of State for Heavy Industries,
Government of India,
Camp : Bhimavaram
(Andhra Pradesh)

Sub: Request for taking up coal pensioners' issue with the coal minister for enhancement of pension to them

Sir,

We, on behalf of All India Coal Pensioners Association (AICPA) extend you our best wishes on assuming charge of Minister of State for Heavy Industries.

We are an association of serving and retired coal executives and employees of Coal India Ltd and Singareni Collieries Co Ltd. We have also a sister association namely All India Association of Coal Executives (AIACE), in which executive employees of CIL and SCCL are included as members. Last, but not the least, we also have under our umbrella, the dependent spouse(s) of our deceased colleagues who are honoured in our body as Associates.

It is brought to your kind notice that many pensioners are getting less than Rs 1000/- per month in spite of working in dirty environment for long years for meeting the energy requirement of the country. Even the highest

Board level and below board level executives who retired before 2007 are getting a meagre pension, insufficient to lead comfortable life.

The coal pensioners are covered under Coal Mines Pension Scheme called CMPS-1998. This scheme was notified on 31st March 1998, and presently approximately 6 lakhs pensioners are receiving pension under the scheme. For providing pension, fund is generated out of earnings from a corpus which is created out of contribution of working employees.

It is projected that gross mismanagement of Fund has led to erosion of initial corpus. In 2017, Parliamentary Accounts Committee (PAC) report had pointed out several irregularities and mismanagement of corpus fund and asked government for remedial measures and restructuring which was agreed by Government in 2019. However, it is a pity that authorities are yet to arrive at a solution and arrange for missing corpus that could have enhanced pension amount and linked it with rising inflation. This is to reiterate that, pension once fixed, has remained constant over the years in spite of provision for review of scheme every three years and for enhancement of pension.

It is apprehended that, officials at coal ministry, though convinced for pension revision are unable for an early resolution in absence of proper direction from various wings of government.

We shall be highly obliged to you for extending support to our cause and use your good office for resolving this critical issue by taking up with the coal minister as poor pensioners are on the verge of starvation with the present pension amount.


With Regards,

P K SINGH RATHOR
Convenor, AIACE/AICPA




Today on 22-06-2024 Sri D Ramchander Rao, a member of AICPA, Hyderabad Branch and President, Singareni Retired Employees Welfare Association, handed over a petition for enhancing the pension of coal employees of Coal India and Singareni Collieries was handed over to Shri Eatata Rajender, Member of Parliament, Medchal Malkajigiri, Telangana., during his visit to Manasarovar Old Bowenpally. Shri Rajender, stated that he was fully aware of the matter and promised to do his best to increase the pension. Copy of the letter to Shri Eatata Rajender is given below:-

आज 22-06-2024 को एआईसीपीए हैदराबाद शाखा के सदस्य और सिंगरेनी रिटायर्ड एम्प्लॉइज वेलफेयर एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष श्री डी रामचंद्र राव ने कोल इंडिया और सिंगरेनी कोलियरीज के कोयला कर्मचारियों की पेंशन वृद्धि के लिए एक याचिका श्री ईटाला राजेंद्र, सांसद, मेडचल मलकाजीगिरी, तेलंगाना को उनके मानसरोवर ओल्ड बोवेनपल्ली दौर के दौरान सौंपी। श्री राजेंद्र ने कहा कि उन्हें मामले की पूरी जानकारी है और उन्होंने पेंशन बढ़ाने के लिए हरसंभव प्रयास करने का वादा किया। श्री ईटाला राजेंद्र को लिखे गए पत्र की प्रति नीचे दी गई है:-



SINGARENI RETIRED EMPLOYEES WELFARE ASSOCIATION KAPRA
 Regd. No. 494 of 2022
 Flat No. 504, C-Block, Varun Enclave, Kapra, ECI, Hyderabad-500062 T.S

<p>President DANDAMRAJ RAMCHANDER RAO 9849592958</p> <p>Secretary BHU PULLI RAN SETHI 9391578262</p> <p>Treasurer N. V. JAYA BABU 9999805913</p>	<p>Hyderabad Dated: 11-06-2024.</p> <p>To Shri Gangapuram Kishan Reddy ji Honourable Minister for Coal and Mines Government of India New Delhi-110001.</p> <p>Respected Sir,</p> <p>Sub: Appeal for Review and Revision / Enhancement of Coal Mines Pension Scheme 1998 -Reg.</p> <p>I take the pleasure in extending my heartfelt congratulations on your assuming office as Minister of Coal.</p> <p>For and on behalf of the Retired Employees / Pensioners of the Coal Industry, the undersigned have the Honour before your Good Office and craving Liberty to invoke your kind attention and Justice on the following within the Socio-economic perspective and Ambit of Coal Mining industry and having attachment with Sweating Coal Employees: 55% of our country's energy needs are fulfilled by coal sector. India's industrial heritage was built upon indigenous coal. 75% of electricity produced in the country is from Thermal Power plants and these plants use COAL as input for generating electricity. Such is the importance of coal sector in lighting up the lives of the people. But the lives of the employees who worked for extraction of coal are still hanging in darkness. Particularly the lives of retired coal employees are vulnerable. They remain aloof from the concept of social security, which forms the core of the welfare state. Retired coal employees are eligible for pension the rate of which is to be revised for every 3 years as per CMPS 1998. This revision is expected to offset the impact of inflation. But since inception of CMPS 1998, the pension was not revised once. Some of the retired employees under the pension scheme are receiving as less as ₹1000 per month. The Medical and insurance facilities provided to the retired employees do not meet the current needs of the employees. Central Government has promoted the idea of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" which means self reliance in all aspects of Governance. Now the retired coal employees are demanding periodic revision of pension to achieve that Atmanirbharta. Even the retired employees staged dharna on multiple occasions to demonstrate the injustice met to them. It is highly essential that the authorities look into the sufferings of the retired coal employees and formulate policies for the welfare of the employees. We hope that Government of India stands with retired coal employees (Sabka saath) and fulfill our demands (Sabka Vikas) and install confidence in it's citizens (Sabka Vishwas).</p> <p>Thanking you sir,</p> <p>With regards,  DANDAMRAJ RAMCHANDER RAO PRESIDENT Email: lalliram.sindhu@gmail.com Copy submitted to: Shri Etala Rajender ji, Honourable Member of Parliament, Medchal Malkajigiri Constituency, Hyderabad - for his kind intervention.</p>
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 M. Bhadrathiah
 Bujanga Sena
 G. Janardhan Reddy
 S. Laxminarayana
 Masanthi Kumar



Ref No. AIACE/CENTRAL / 054

Dated 6th July, 2024

To
Hon'ble Sri Tokhan Sahu ji,
Hon'ble Minister of State for Housing And Urban Affairs,
Government of India,
New Delhi

Sub: Request for taking up coal pensioners' issue with the coal minister for enhancement of pension to them

Hon'ble Sir-

We, on behalf of All India Association of Coal Executives (AIACE) extend you our best wishes on assuming charge of Minister Of State for Housing And Urban Affairs.

We are an association of serving and retired coal executives and employees of Coal India Ltd and Singreth Collieries Co Ltd. In which executive employees of CIL and SCEL are included as members. Last, but not the least, we also have under our umbrella, the dependent spouse(s) of our deceased colleagues who are honoured in our body as Associates.

It is brought to your kind notice that many pensioners are getting less than Rs 1000/- per month in spite of working in dirty environment for long years for meeting the energy requirement of the country. Even the highest Board level and below board level executives who retired before 2007 are getting a meagre pension, insufficient to lead comfortable life.

The coal pensioners are covered under Coal Mines Pension Scheme called CMPIS-1998. This scheme was notified on 31st March 1998, and presently approximately 6 lakh pensioners are receiving pension under the scheme. For providing pension, fund is generated out of earnings from a corpus which is created out of contribution of working employees.

It is projected that gross mismanagement of Fund has led to erosion of initial corpus. In 2017, Parliamentary Accounts Committee (PAC) report had pointed out several irregularities and mismanagement of corpus fund and asked government for remedial measures and restructuring which was agreed by Government in 2019. However, it is a pity that authorities are yet to arrive at a solution and arrange for missing corpus that could have enhanced pension amount and linked it with rising inflation. This is to reiterate that, pension once fixed, has remained constant over the years in spite of provision for review of scheme every three years and for enhancement of pension.

It is apprehended that, officials at coal ministry, though convinced for pension revision are unable for an early resolution in absence of proper direction from various wings of government.

We shall be highly obliged to you for extending support to our cause and use your good offices for resolving this critical issue by taking up with the coal minister as poor pensioners are on the verge of starvation with the present pension amount.

With Regards,

P K SINGH RATHOR
Principal General Secretary

A Delegation of AIACE led by Sri P K Singh Rathor, Convenor, AIACE/AICPA met Sri Tokhan Sahu, Hon'ble Minister of State, Urban Development (Standing at centre on above 2 photographs), and handed him a memorandum for taking up with Hon'ble Union Minister for Coal, the vexing issue of Pension to retirees from coal sector. (Letter reproduced below)

The members in the delegation comprised of (from Left to Right) Dr A. M. MOHAN, President, Bilaspur Branch, Sri P K Singh Rathor, Convenor AIACE/AICPA, Sri Sri S C Sinha, Jt. General Secretary, Bilaspur Branch, Sri P K Sharan, Executive Committee member, Bilaspur Branch



ALL INDIA ASSOCIATION OF COAL PENSIONERS (AICPA)
ALL INDIA ASSOCIATION OF COAL EXECUTIVES (AIACE)



PRESS-RELEASE Dt. 16-7-2024



Representation Submitted to Sri Etala Rajender ji, Honourable Member of Parliament, Medchal Malkajgiri Constituency.



Representation submitted to Sri Shri Konda Vishwashwar Reddy ji, Honourable Member of Parliament (Lokasabha), Chevella Constituency

On 16-07-2024, a representation signed by Sri PK Singh Rathor Convenor AICPA/AIACE was submitted to Sri Etala Rajender ji, Honourable Member of Parliament, Medchal-Malkajgiri constituency (Telengana state), by Shri D Ramchander Rao, and Shri Meduri Vijaya Babu.

On the same day, 16-07-2024, the duo Shri D Ramchander Rao, and Shri Meduri Vijaya Babu presented a similar representation to Sri Konda Vishwashwar Reddy ji, Honourable Member of Parliament (Lokasabha), Chevella Constituency, (Telengana state).

The petition expounded the sufferings of coal pensioners who are surviving on insubstantial pension and requested immediate intervention of the Ministry of Coal & Mines to sort out the issues plaguing coal pensioners of CIL and SCCL and about their pitiable condition who have retired long back.

Sri P. K Singh Rathor, Convenor, AICPA told that the poor pensioners are on the verge of starvation with the present pension amount and the Coal Ministry officials should immediately intervene for enhancing the pension.

Submission of our representation on pension enhancement issue by a team of AIACE/AICPA Hyderabad Branch members, to Shri Bandi Sanjay Kumar ji, Honourable Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Karimnagar Loksabha Constituency, (Telengana State)at his own residence in Karimnagar on 14-8-2024.



2024_AICPA_CENTRAL_021

Dated: 13th August, 2024

To
Shri Bandi Sanjay Kumar ji,
Honourable Union Minister of State for Home Affairs,
Karimnagar Loksabha Constituency,
(Telengana State)

Sub: Request for taking up coal pensioners' issue with the coal minister for enhancement of pension to them

Dear Sir,

We represent All India Coal Pensioners Association (AICPA), - an association of serving and retired coal executives and employees of Coal India Ltd and Singareni Collieries Co Ltd. We work hand to hand with our sister association namely All India Association of Coal Executives (AIACE), in which working and retired executives and their widow spouses, all belonging to CIL and SCCL are included as members.

These employees from coal sector are covered under a pension scheme called CMPS-1998, and the fund management is done by CMPFO under ministry of coal. This CMPS-1998 scheme has been subject to criticism and scrutiny as evident from 12th report of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) No. 2193 report presented to Parliament on 18th March, 2020.
https://eparlib.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/809294/1/17_Public_Accounts_36.pdf

CMPS-1998 was notified on 31st March 1998, and drawback of this scheme is, pension once fixed, remains stagnant over the years in spite of provision for review of scheme every three years and for enhancement of pension.

It is brought to your kind notice that many pensioners are getting less than Rs 1000/- per month in spite of working in dirty environment for long years for meeting the energy requirement of the country. Even the highest Board level and below board level executives who retired before 2007 are getting a meagre pension, insufficient to lead comfortable life. For Singareni Collieries Co Ltd, the situation is worse as pensioners living outside the coalfield area are deprived of any post-retirement medical benefits too.

The present growth of coal industry is largely due to conservation of coal reserves meticulously carried out by the same employees who are present day pensioners. CIL and SCCL are unable to assist these retired employees, now pensioners, as they do not have authority to handle and distribute pension.

It is a bitter truth that, past decisions and present indecisions, have made enhancement of pension a nightmare and distant dream for pensioners leading to demise of many elderly pensioners every year. In view of these stated facts, we request your intervention in this matter so that the revision and enhancement of pension of these pensioners can be hastened without any further delay by the concerned authorities.

We request to apprise the Union Minister for Coal for initiating an amicable solution to this vexing issue.

With Regards,

P K SINGH RATHOR
Convener, AIACE/AICPA



On 28th August, 2024, a representation from AICPA addressed to Sri G. K. Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister for Coal, signed by Sri PK Singh Rathor, Convenor AICPA, for enhancement of pension under CMPS-1998, was handed over to Sri Ch Vidyasagar Rao Garu, Former Governor of Maharashtra, by Sri PB Rayanna, Retd. AGM (E&M), SCCL in Hyderabad with a request to forward this in person to Hon'ble Coal Minister. Content of the letter is as reproduced here:


ALL INDIA COAL PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION
 (A non-political Coal Pensioners' Body)
 302, Block No. 4, Ram Krishna Enclave, Nutan Chowk, Sarkanda, Bilaspur (C.G.)
 E-mail : centralaicpa@gmail.com ; Ph. 9907434051

2024_AICPA_CENTRAL_022

Dated: 28th August, 2024

To
 Hon'ble Sri G. Kishan Reddy ji,
 Union Minister for Coal,
 Government of India,
 New Delhi

Sub: Request for resolving issues in CMPS-1998 in the light of UPS and to enhance pension to coal sector retirees

Dear Sir,

We represent All India Coal Pensioners Association (AICPA), - an association of serving and retired coal executives and employees of Coal India Ltd and Singareni Collieries Co Ltd. We work hand to hand with our sister association namely All India Association of Coal Executives (AIACE), in which working and retired executives and their widow spouses, all belonging to CIL and SCCL are included as members.

We welcome the recent decision of Union Government for announcing UPS for 23 lakhs union government employees. (vide PIB Release ID: 2048607 dated 24-8-2024).

Though, we are not beneficiaries under UPS, we feel proud that the government has largely borrowed the idea from CMPS-1998 Pension scheme, being implemented by the coal ministry This Coal Mines Pension Scheme (CMPS) 1998 was brought by NDA government under leadership of Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee j (Notified by Publication vide G.S.R. 123(E), dated 5.3.1998, published in the Gazette of India, Ext. Pt., I, Section 3(i), dated 5.3.1998). This scheme is effective wef 1/4/1994 ie for those who retires after April 1993 and had opted this scheme.

We wish to bring to your kind notice that the two pension schemes namely CMPS and UPS differ to some extent in a manner that UPS has provision of Inflation Indexation to provide dearness relief, whereas the pensioners under CMPS-1998 are deprived of it. Due to this drawback of our scheme, pension once fixed, remains stagnant over the years in spite of provision for review of scheme every three years and for enhancement of pension.

It is learnt that this CMPS-1998 is on way of recast. We shall be thankful to you for instructing the concerned authorities to examine and incorporate this feature of Inflation Indexation along with enhancement of payable minimum pension to Rs 10000/-

With Regards,



P K SINGH RATHOR
 Convenor, AIACE/AICPA



Sri P K Singh Rathor, Convenor, All India Coal Pensioners' Association (AICPE), has written a letter to Dr Kadiyam Kavya ji, Honourable Member of Parliament Warangal Lok Sabha constituency requesting her intervention into the problems being faced by retired coal miners. He has requested the Honourable MP to take up this issue with the Union Coal Minister.

On advise of AICPA Hyderabad branch convenor Dandamraj Ramchander Rao, the Singareni pensioners residing at Warangal. Yerram Damodar, Ch Madhava Rao Nampally P Sambaiah, Ch Satyanarayana, N Damodar, P Laxma Reddy, G Venkateswarlu and Gollapally Komuraiah submitted the petition to Dr Kadiyam Kavya ji, Honourable Member of Parliament Warangal constituency at her own residency Hanmakonda. She has assured to take up with Hon'ble Coal Minister Sri G Kishan Reddy immediately.

Content of the letter is as reproduced here:



2024_AICPA_CENTRAL_Hyderabad_021

Dated: 18th August, 2024

To
 Dr. Kadiyam Kavya garu
 Honourable Member Of Parliament
 Warangal Loksabha Constituency
 Telanga

Respected Madam ji

Sub: Request for taking up cpensioners' issue with the coal minister for enhancement of pension to them.

We represent All India Coal Pensioners Association (AICPA), - an association of serving and retired coal executives and employees of Coal India Ltd and Singareni Collieries Co Ltd. We work hand to hand with our sister association namely All India Association of Coal Executives (AIACE), in which working and retired executives and their widow spouses, all belonging to CIL and SCCL are included as members.

These employees from coal sector are covered under a pension scheme called CMPS-1998, and the fund management is done by CMPFO under ministry of coal. This CMPS-1998 scheme has been subject to criticism and scrutiny as evident from 12th report of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) No. 2193 report presented to Parliament on 18th March, 2020. https://eparlib.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/809294/1/17_Public_Accounts_36.pdf

CMPS-1998 was notified on 31st March 1998, and drawback of this scheme is, pension once fixed, remains stagnant over the years in spite of provision for review of scheme every three years and for enhancement of pension.

It is brought to your kind notice that many pensioners are getting less than Rs 1000/- per month in spite of working in dirty environment for long years for meeting the energy requirement of the country. Even the highest Board level and below board level executives who retired before 2007 are getting a meagre pension, insufficient to lead comfortable life. For Singareni Collieries Co Ltd, the situation is worse as pensioners living outside the coalfield area are deprived of any post-retirement medical benefits too.

The present growth of coal industry is largely due to conservation of coal reserves meticulously carried out by the same employees who are present day pensioners. CIL and SCCL are unable to assist these retired employees, now pensioners, as they do not have authority to handle and distribute pension.

It is a bitter truth that, past decisions and present indecisions, have made enhancement of pension a nightmare and distant dream for pensioners leading to demise of many elderly pensioners every year. In view of these stated facts, we request your intervention in this matter so that the revision and enhancement of pension of these pensioners can be hastened without any further delay by the concerned authorities.

We request to apprise the Union Minister for Coal for initiating an amicable solution to this vexing issue.

With Regards,



P K SINGH RATHOR

Convenor, AIACE/AICPA

DR. KADIYAM KAVYA
MBBS, MD
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
(LOK SABHA)



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Hanamkonda District Telangana

Mobile 9885856065
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Dated :26 -09-2024

Lr.No.MP WGL(TELANGANA)/61/2024

To,
Sri G. Kishan Reddy Garu,
Hon'ble Union Minister of Coal and Mines,
Govt. of India.

Respected sir,

I am submitting herewith the representation of Sri. P K Singh Rathor, Convenor, All India Coal Pensioners' Association (AICPE), requesting for revision and enhancement of pension benefits.

These employees from coal sector are covered under a pension scheme called CMPS-1998, and the fund management is done by CMPFO under ministry of coal. This CMPS-1998 scheme has been subject to criticism and scrutiny as evident from 12th report of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) No. 2193 report presented to Parliament on 18th March, 2020.

Needless to say, that the present growth of coal industry is largely due to conservation of coal reserves meticulously carried out by the same employees who are present day pensioners. Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company limited (SCCL) are unable to assist these retired employees, now pensioners, as they do not have authority to handle and distribute pension.

It is a bitter truth that, past decisions and present indecisions, have made enhancement of pension a nightmare and distant dream for pensioners leading to demise of many elderly pensioners every year.

Hence, I request your intervention in this matter so that the revision and enhancement of pension of these pensioners can be hastened without any further delay by the concerned authorities.

With kind regards,

Yours faithfully,


(Dr. KADIYAM KAVYA).



ALL INDIA ASSOCIATION OF COAL EXECUTIVES

ALL INDIA COAL PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION



आल इंडिया कोल पेंशनर्स एसोसिएशन (एआईसीपीए) के संयोजक श्री पी के सिंह राठौर ने महबूबाबाद लोकसभा क्षेत्र के माननीय सांसद श्री बलराम नाइक जी को पत्र लिखकर सेवानिवृत्त कोयला खनिकों की समस्याओं में हस्तक्षेप करने का अनुरोध किया है। उन्होंने माननीय सांसद से इस मुद्दे को केंद्रीय कोयला मंत्री के समक्ष उठाने का अनुरोध किया है।

एआईसीपीए हैदराबाद शाखा के संयोजक दंडमराज रामचंद्र राव की सलाह पर, वारंगल में रहने वाले सिंगरेनी पेंशनर्स येरम दामोदर ने आज 17-9-2024 को हनुमानकोंडा के होटल हरिता काकतीय में श्री बलराम नाइक जी को याचिका प्रस्तुत की है। माननीय सांसद ने इस मुद्दे को तुरंत केंद्रीय कोयला मंत्री श्री जी किशन रेड्डी के समक्ष उठाने और संसद के आगामी शीतकालीन सत्र में इस मुद्दे को उठाने का आश्वासन दिया।

पत्र की सामग्री यहाँ प्रस्तुत है:

Sri P K Singh Rathor, Convenor, All India Coal Pensioners' Association (AICPA), has written a letter to Shri Balram Naik ji, Honourable Member of Parliament of Mahabubabad Lok Sabha constituency, requesting her intervention into the problems being faced by retired coal miners. He has requested the Honourable MP to take up this issue with the Union Coal Minister.

On advise of AICPA Hyderabad branch convenor Dandamraj Ramchander Rao, the Singareni pensioners residing at Warangal. Yerram Damodar has submitted the petition today on 17-9-2024 to Shri Balram Naik ji at Hotel Haritha Kakatiya at Hanumakonda. Hon'ble MP assured to immediately take up the issue with the Union Coal Minister Shri G Kishan Reddy and raise the issue in ensuing winter session of the Parliament.

Content of the letter is as reproduced here:



ALL INDIA COAL PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

(A non-political Coal Pensioners' Body)

302, Block No. 4, RamKrishna Enclave, Nutan Chowk, Sarkanda, Bilaspur (C.G.)
E-mail : centralaicpa@gmail.com ; Ph. 9907434051

P. K. Singh Rathor
Convenor

D. Ramchander Rao
Co-ordinator,
Hyderabad Branch

A. Venumadhav
Jt. Co-ordinator,
Hyderabad Branch

2024_AICPA_CENTRAL_17_Hyderabad

Dated 17-9-2024

To
Shri Porika Balram Naik garu,
Honourable Member of Parliament
Mahboobabad Loksabha Constituency,
(Telengana State)

Sub: Request for taking up coal pensioners' issue with the coal minister for enhancement of pension to them

Dear Sir,

We represent All India Coal Pensioners Association (AICPA), an association of serving and retired coal executives and employees of Coal India Ltd and Singareni Collieries Co Ltd. We work hand to hand with our sister association namely All India Association of Coal Executives (AIACE), in which working and retired executives and their widow spouses, all belonging to CIL and SCCL are included as members.

These employees from coal sector are covered under a pension scheme called CMPS-1998, and the fund management is done by CMPFO under ministry of coal. This CMPS-1998 scheme has been subject to criticism and scrutiny as evident from 12th report of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) No. 2193 report presented to Parliament on 18th March, 2020.
https://sparlib.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/809294/1/17_Public_Accounts_36.pdf

CMPS-1998 was notified on 31st March 1998, and drawback of this scheme is, pension once fixed, remains stagnant over the years in spite of provision for review of scheme every three years and for enhancement of pension.

It is brought to your kind notice that many pensioners are getting less than Rs 1000/- per month in spite of working in dirty environment for long years for meeting the energy requirement of the country. Even the highest Board level and below board level executives who retired before 2007 are getting a meagre pension, insufficient to lead comfortable life. For Singareni Collieries Co Ltd, the situation is worse as pensioners living outside the coalfield area are deprived of any post-retirement medical benefits too.

The present growth of coal industry is largely due to conservation of coal reserves meticulously carried out by the same employees who are present day pensioners. CIL and SCCL are unable to assist these retired employees, now pensioners, as they do not have authority to handle and distribute pension.

It is a bitter truth that, past decisions and present indecisions, have made enhancement of pension a nightmare and distant dream for pensioners leading to demise of many elderly pensioners every year. In view of these stated facts, we request your intervention in this matter so that the revision and enhancement of pension of these pensioners can be hastened without any further delay by the concerned authorities.

We request to apprise the Union Minister for Coal for initiating an amicable solution to this vexing issue.

With Regards,

P K SINGH RATHOR
Convenor, AIACE/AICPA



ALL INDIA ASSOCIATION OF COAL EXECUTIVES

ALL INDIA COAL PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION



आल इंडिया कोल पेंशनर्स एसोसिएशन (एआईसीपीए) के संयोजक श्री पी के सिंह राठौर ने पेड्डापल्ली लोकसभा क्षेत्र के माननीय सांसद श्री गद्दाम वामसी कृष्णा जी को एक पत्र लिखकर सेवानिवृत्त कोयला खनिकों की समस्याओं में हस्तक्षेप करने का अनुरोध किया है। उन्होंने माननीय सांसद से कोयला कर्मचारियों के लिए पेंशन बढ़ाने और सिंगरेनी सेवानिवृत्त कर्मचारियों को मुफ्त असीमित चिकित्सा सुविधाएं प्रदान करने के इस मुद्दे को केंद्रीय कोयला मंत्री के समक्ष उठाने का अनुरोध किया है।

एआईसीपीए हैदराबाद शाखा के संयोजक दंडमराज रामचंद्र राव ने आज 20-9-2024 को माननीय सांसद श्री गद्दाम वामसी कृष्णा जी को उनके बेगमपेट कार्यालय, हैदराबाद में याचिका सौंपी। माननीय सांसद ने तुरंत जवाब दिया और कहा कि पेंशन के मामलों को कोयला और खान मंत्री श्री जी किशन रेड्डी जी को अवगत करा दिया गया है और आश्वासन दिया कि वह संसद के आगामी शीतकालीन सत्र में इस मुद्दे पर सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करेंगे। पत्र की सामग्री यहाँ प्रस्तुत है:

Sri P K Singh Rathor, Convenor, All India Coal Pensioners' Association (AICPA), has written a letter to Shri Gaddam Vamsi Krishna ji, Honourable Member of Parliament of Peddapally Lokasabha Constituency, requesting his intervention into the problems being faced by retired coal miners. He has requested the Honourable MP to take up this issue of enhancement of pension for coal employees and for providing free unlimited medical facilities to Singareni retired employees, with the Union Coal Minister.

AICPA Hyderabad Branch Convener Dandamraj Ramchander Rao has submitted the petition today on 20-9-2024 to Shri Gaddam Vamsi Krishna ji, Hon'ble MP at his Begumpet office, Hyderabad. Hon'ble MP immediately responded and said pension matters have been apprised to Coal & Mines Minister Shri G Kishan Reddy ji and assured that he will draw the attention of the government onto this issue in the upcoming winter session of the Parliament.

Content of the letter is as reproduced here:



ALL INDIA COAL PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

(A non-political Coal Pensioners' Body)

302, Block No. 4, RamKrishna Enclave, Nutan Chowk, Sarkargda, Bilaspur (C.G.)

E-mail : centralaicpa@gmail.com ; Ph. 9907434051

2024_AICPA_CENTRAL_013

Dated 18-7-2024

20-9-2024

To

Shri Gaddam Vamsi Krishna ji,
Honourable Member of Parliament
Peddapally Lokasabha Constituency
(Telengana State)

Sub: Request for taking up coal pensioners' issue with the coal minister for enhancement of pension to them

Dear Sir,

We represent All India Coal Pensioners Association (AICPA), - an association of serving and retired coal executives and employees of Coal India Ltd and Singareni Collieries Co Ltd. We work hand to hand with our sister association namely All India Association of Coal Executives (AIACE), in which working and retired executives and their widow spouses, all belonging to CIL and SCCL are included as members.

These employees from coal sector are covered under a pension scheme called CMPS-1998, and the fund management is done by CMPFO under ministry of coal. This CMPS-1998 scheme has been subject to criticism and scrutiny as evident from 12th report of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) No. 2193 report presented to Parliament on 18th March, 2020.
https://eparlib.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/809294/1/17_Public_Accounts_36.pdf

CMPS-1998 was notified on 31st March 1998, and drawback of this scheme is, pension once fixed, remains stagnant over the years in spite of provision for review of scheme every three years and for enhancement of pension.

It is brought to your kind notice that many pensioners are getting less than Rs 1000/- per month in spite of working in dirty environment for long years for meeting the energy requirement of the country. Even the highest Board level and below board level executives who retired before 2007 are getting a meagre pension, insufficient to lead comfortable life. For Singareni Collieries Co Ltd, the situation is worse as pensioners living outside the coalfield area are deprived of any post-retirement medical benefits too.

It is a pity that authorities are yet to arrive at a solution and arrange for missing corpus that could have enhanced pension amount and linked it with rising inflation.

The present growth of coal industry is largely due to conservation of coal reserves meticulously carried out by the same employees who are present day pensioners. CIL and SCCL are unable to assist these retired employees, now pensioners, as they do not have authority to handle and distribute pension.

We request to apprise the Union Minister for Coal for initiating an amicable solution to this vexing issue.

For this act of your kindness for extending support to our struggle for enhanced pension, we shall remain highly obliged to you.

With Regards,

P K SINGH RATHOR
Convenor, AIACE/AICPA



ALL INDIA ASSOCIATION OF COAL EXECUTIVES

ALL INDIA COAL PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION



आज यानि 19-10-2024 को, AICPA और सिंगरेनी रिटायर्ड वेलफेयर एसोसिएशन के एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने हैदराबाद के दिलकुशा गेस्ट हाउस में केंद्रीय कोयला खान मंत्री माननीय श्री गंगापुरम किशन रेड्डी से मुलाकात की और ऑल इंडिया कोल पेंशनर्स एसोसिएशन के संयोजक श्री पीके सिंह राठौर और सिंगरेनी रिटायर्ड वेलफेयर एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष श्री दंडमराज रामचंद्र राव तथा श्री पी बी रायन्ना, सेवानिवृत्त एजीएम ई एंड एम, सिंगरेनी कोलीयरिस द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित एक याचिका सौंपी। मंत्री महोदय ने तुरंत प्रतिक्रिया देते हुए आश्वासन दिया कि वह पेंशन बढ़ाने के लिए हस्तक्षेप करेंगे और इसका समर्थन करेंगे। साथ ही, मंत्री महोदय ने अवगत कराया कि पूरे भारत के अन्य कोयला खनिक संघों ने भी पेंशन मामलों के बारे में याचिकाएँ प्रस्तुत की हैं।

पत्र की सामग्री यहाँ अनुलग्नक में दी गई:-

Today i.e. 19-10-2024, a delegation of AICPA and Singareni Retired Welfare Association called on Union Minister for Coal Mines Shri Gangapuram Kishan Reddy at Dilkusha Guest House, Hyderabad and submitted a petition signed by Convenor of All India Coal Pensioners Association Shri PK Singh Rathore and President of Singareni Retired Welfare Association Shri Dandamraj Ramchander Rao and Singareni P B Rayanna Retired AGM E&M.

The Minister promptly responded and assured that he would intervene and support to enhance the pension rate. Also, the Minister remarked that the Coal Miners Associations throughout India have also submitted the petitions regarding the pension matters.

Content of the letter is as reproduced here in Annexure.



2024_AICPA_CENTRAL_027_Hyderabad_B

Dated: 19-10-2024

To
Hon'ble Sri G. Kishan Reddy ji,
Union Minister for Coal,
Government of India,
New Delhi

Sub: Request for resolving issues in CMPS-1998 in the light of UPS and to enhance pension to coal sector retirees

Dear Sir,

We represent All India Coal Pensioners Association (AICPA), - an association of serving and retired coal executives and employees of Coal India Ltd and Singareni Collieries Co Ltd. We work hand to hand with our sister association namely All India Association of Coal Executives (AIACE), in which working and retired executives and their widow spouses, all belonging to CIL and SCCL are included as members.

We welcome the recent decision of Union Government for announcing UPS for 23 lakhs union government employees. (vide PIB Release ID: 2048607 dated 24-8-2024).

Though, we are not beneficiaries under UPS, we feel proud that the government has largely borrowed the idea from CMPS-1998 Pension scheme, being implemented by the coal ministry This Coal Mines Pension Scheme (CMPS) 1998 was brought by NDA government under leadership of Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee j (Notified by Publication vide G.S.R. 123(E), dated 5.3.1998, published in the Gazette of India, Ext. Pt., I, Section 3(i), dated 5.3.1998). This scheme is effective wef 1/4/1994 ie for those who retires after April 1993 and had opted this scheme.

We wish to bring to your kind notice that the two pension schemes namely CMPS and UPS differ to some extent in a manner that UPS has provision of Inflation Indexation to provide dearness relief, whereas the pensioners under CMPS-1998 are deprived of it. Due to this drawback of our scheme, pension once fixed, remains stagnant over the years in spite of provision for review of scheme every three years and for enhancement of pension.

It is learnt that this CMPS-1998 is on way of recast. We shall be thankful to you for instructing the concerned authorities to examine and incorporate this feature of Inflation Indexation along with enhancement of payable minimum pension to Rs 10000/- We may be permitted to submit a study prepared by us which speaks of the problem and its diagnosis for your kind perusal.

With Regards,

P K SINGH RATHOR
Convenor, AIACE/AICPA

D. Ramchander Rao

AICPA convenor Hyderabad
Boradach

Rtd. G.M.C.
Seal

Encl: A study titled "Coal Miners' Pension – Tragedy & Remedy"

Appendix**COAL MINERS' PENSION – TRAGEDY & REMEDY****PREAMBLE**

Coal Industry in India is recognised for its valuable contribution towards fulfilling primary energy needs of the country. Apart from its hazardous nature of work, it differs from other industries in the sense that its future growth is largely dependent on present day scientific mining and conservation of coal reserves. Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) have struggled a lot to put the coal industry in track after its nationalization. Non-revision of pension speaks poor of coal industry and younger generation tend to avoid this sector.

LAUNCH OF PENSION SCHEME

Prior to independence on 15th August 1947, Coal mining in India was entirely under private sector. In the year 1948, Govt. of India, enacted Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO) to provide one-time post-retirement benefits, in the form of Provident Fund, to workers of coal industry. Presently, CMPFO is under administrative control of Coal Ministry. Scope of CMPFO was enlarged in 1971, under CMFPS-1971, to ensure pension to family of coal workers in case of demise during employment. In a revolutionary step, Pension for organized Industrial Workers were also allowed with its introduction in coal sector in 1998 by Vajpayee government. This was termed as (Contributory) Coal Mines Pension Scheme -1998 (CMPS-1998). It came into effect on 31st March, 1998 vide Notification No. G.S.R. 123 (E) dated. 5th March, 1998. It allowed membership from 1st April, 1994 and covers employees of CIL, SCCL, TISCO and Pvt mines.

SALIENT FEATURES OF PENSION SCHEME

Corpus for paying pension is created from,

(i) Equal contribution by employee & employer, (Rate of contribution to Pension fund varied in 1971, 1998 & 2017)

(ii) Government contribution @1.67% of employee basic pay (Max. 1600)

(iii) Voluntary contribution of Welfare cess collected @Rs 10 per tonne of coal produced by PSU coal companies CIL & SCCL

Earnings on Corpus was envisaged to be utilized in paying pension. The pension is fixed based on last pay drawn and pension remains constant throughout the life of pensioner as, in spite of provisions, no review/revision since 1998 has been done. It is to be noted that, many are getting below pension below Rs.1000 p.m.

REASONS FOR STAGNANT PENSION**Part – I : Role of Actuarial Reports**

An actuary is a professional who specializes in assessing and managing the financial risks associated with pension funds and insurance plans and determining whether funding is sufficient to meet pension obligations. After the implementation of the scheme in the year 1998, the actuarial valuation of the pension fund was to be done every 3 years but it has been done only in 2001, 2005, 2012 and 2013 but the recommendations were never implemented. Actuary has prepared need based interim reports and blames CMPFO for incomplete data. Actuaries' reports discuss 2 types of profits and losses, (i) "Notional" and (ii) Actual. "Notional" means imaginary and actual profit and loss is meant to explain the financial position. Projecting notional profit and loss and actual profit and loss gives pension fund investors a fair idea of the performance of their investments.

Part – II : Reasons Highlighted by CAG/PAC Reports

In Part I of the 12th report of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) No. 2193 report, under Section III.1.8 Net Deficit of CMPFO, the statement of Coal ministry is stated as under "There is no net deficit in Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization at the end of December 2019, only actuarial (notional) deficit exists."

([https://164.100.47.193/lsscommittee/Public%20Accounts/17 Public Accounts 12.pdf](https://164.100.47.193/lsscommittee/Public%20Accounts/17%20Public%20Accounts%2012.pdf))

In Part II of the 12th report of PAC No. 2193 report, under **Restructuring of Coal Mines Pension Scheme**, it is mentioned that, *"The Committee strongly express the need for undertaking a review exercise of the existing Pension scheme. It is imperative to revamp the scheme so as to enable in payments being commensurate with the contributions received. The Ministry in this regard is needed to guide CMPFO in strengthening the fund through appropriate measures/amendments."*

[https://eparlib.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/809294/1/17 Public Accounts 36.pdf#search=coal%20ministry%20Public%20Accounts%20Committee](https://eparlib.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/809294/1/17%20Public%20Accounts%2036.pdf#search=coal%20ministry%20Public%20Accounts%20Committee)

The same report contains Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee and it is stated that, *"For the sustainability of fund, Ministry is working on multipronged strategy viz. capping of maximum pension, extension of period for arriving average salary for fixation of pension and appointment of actuary to suggest further measure for sustainability of fund."*

Findings of CAG report which are accepted by government in Parliament in 2019 can be summarized as:

- i) Stringent Internal Audit
- ii) Element of Transparency- Single Instrument
- iii) Restructuring of CMPS-1998
- iv) Regular Appointment of Actuary

STATUS OF REFORMS

So far, lack of appropriate measures have prevented speedy implementation on suggestions contained in this PAC report. Even pensioners have failed to draw government's attention for intervention. For obtaining speedy resolution, in a parallel move, Federation of Retired Employees Association & Others, approached Supreme Court vide W.P. 88 of 2015 from where the case got transferred to Delhi High Court vide W.P.(C) 3118/2015 and is still undecided.

REQUIRED REFORMS BASED ON CAG REPORT AND UPS:

- i) Immediate Restructuring of present CMPS-1998 with a better scheme
- ii) Immediate review and enhancement of pension linked with Dearness Relief (DR)
- iii) If needed, compulsory welfare cess of 1% on selling price of coal
- iv) Expansion of CMPF Trustee Board to include Persons who are Investment experts.
- v) Coal Ministry officials are given free hand to overrule BoT obstructions.
- vi) To ensure Actuary report every 3 years

REFORMS IN OTHER SECTOR AND COMPARISON OF FEATURES

Features	Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)	CMPS-1998
Type	Hybrid (Defined Benefit + Defined Contribution)	Hybrid (Defined Benefit + Defined Contribution)
Pension Guarantee	Employees will receive 50 per cent of their average basic pay from the 12 months before retirement as their pension.	Employees will receive 25 per cent of their average emoluments (ie. Basic + DA) from the 10 months before retirement as their pension, in full, if completed service is 30 years.
Minimum Pension	For those with a shorter service period, UPS guarantees a minimum pension of Rs 10,000 per month.	No such guaranteed minimum pension, but, being notified to be as Rs 1000 per month
Family Pension	60% of the employee's pension upon their death	60% of the employee's pension upon their death
Disablement Pension	No Provision	After 10 years of pensionable service, will get pension @ 25% of average emoluments or a minimum of Rs.350 p.m.
Children Pension	No provision	Along with widow/widower, 2 of the eldest sons or unmarried daughters will be entitled to children pension @ 25% of Widow/widower pension till they attain the age of 25 years.

Features	Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)	CMPS-1998
Lump Sum Payments	In addition to gratuity, UPS provides a lump sum payment at retirement. For every six months of service, employees receive 1/10th of their monthly salary (pay + DA) as a one-time payment.	CMPS includes a provision for the General Provident Fund (GPF), where employees can contribute a portion of their salary, which is then returned with interest at the time of retirement.
Regulated by	Supported and Regulated by Government.	Supported and Regulated by CMPS Trust
Investment Options	Equity (E), Corporate Debt (C), and Government Securities (G), AIF, REITs, InvITs, etc.	Not specified
Contributions	Employees contribute 10% of their salary, while the government contributes 18.5%	From 1-10-2017, (i) 7% (Earlier 2%) of the employee's basic salary plus Dearness Allowance (DA) is deducted for the pension fund. (ii) Matching contribution from Employer is also added. (iii) Government adds 1.67 % of Basic salary (Max. Basic Salary Rs.1600). (iv) Welfare cess by CIL and SCCL at the rate of Rs 10 per tonne on selling price of coal is levied.
Protection against Inflation	UPS includes inflation indexation, similar to dearness allowance, to adjust assured pension, family pension, and minimum pension according to inflation rates.	CMPS-1998 does not have a feature of Inflation indexation like UPS.

INFLATION AND PROPOSED PENSION ENHANCEMENT BY LINKING IT WITH CPI

Under pension scheme governed by CMPS-1998, amount of pension once fixed remains unchanged throughout the life of a pensioner. As such, effect of inflation of rupee over the years is not added to this pension amount, and the handsome pension fixed in the beginning loses its money value considerably over the years.

The inflation rate in India between 1995 and 2022 was 460.53%, as per data available at <https://www.inflationtool.com/indianrupee?amount=100&year1=1998&year2=2022&frequency=yearly>.

This means that 100 rupees in 1995 are equivalent to 560.53 rupees in 2022. The average annual inflation rate between these periods was 6.59%, where in 1995 CPI was 25.4 which changed to 142.37 in 2022.

Hence, it is proposed to provide relief to existing surviving pensioners at a rate of 6.59% of pension being drawn for every year of survival.

AVG. PENSION PER PENSIONER PER MONTH

Yearly outflow in 2021-22, (Rs. in crore)	4449.74
No. of Total pensioners in 2021-22 (Nos.)	606666
Avg pension per person per month at CPI=142.37	Rs 6100
In 1994-95 (Rs) at CPI= 25.4, Rs 6100 is equivalent to	Rs 1100

That means, a surviving pensioner of 1994-95 getting a stagnant pension of Rs 1100 pm, needs Rs 6100-Rs 1100= Rs 5000 pm. for 100% neutralization of inflation.

So, for all the surviving pensioners since 1994-95, this will require Rs 405 Cr per annum (less than 10% of pension outflow in 2021-22).

PENSIONERS SURVIVING IN 2021-22 AND FUND ESTIMATION FOR ADMISSIBLE RELIEF

Estimation of Pensioners Surviving in 2021-22 and Fund estimation for Admissible relief per pensioner per month

Pensioner joining in Year	No. of years of receiving pension (Years)	Age as in 2020-2021 (Years)	Mortality rate	Total Pensioners (Actual/Estimated) (No.)	Pensioners considered added in the year	Surviving Pensioners as in 2021-22 (No.)	Admissible relief per pensioner per month (Rs)	Per annum amount for enhancing pension(Rs Crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1994-1995	27	85	99%	0	5000	50	5000	0.30
1995-1996	26	84	98%	5330	330	7	4681	0.04
1996-1997	25	83	97%	5682	352	11	4324	0.05
1997-1998	24	82	96%	6057	375	15	3988	0.07
1998-1999	23	83	95%	6457	400	20	3674	0.09
1999-2000	22	82	93%	6883	426	30	3379	0.12
2000-2001	21	81	90%	7337	454	45	3102	0.17
2001-2002	20	80	87%	7821	484	63	2842	0.21
2002-2003	19	79	86%	8338	516	72	2598	0.23
2003-2004	18	78	85%	8888	550	83	2370	0.23
2004-2005	17	77	80%	9475	587	117	2155	0.30
2005-2006	16	76	70%	10100	625	188	1954	0.44

Pensioner joining in Year	No. of years of receiving pension (Years)	Age as in 2020-2021 (Years)	Mortality rate	Total Pensioners (Actual/Estimated) (No.)	Pensioners considered added in the year	Surviving Pensioners as in 2021-22 (No.)	Admissible relief per pensioner per month (Rs)	Per annum amount for enhancing pension (Rs Crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2006-2007	15	75	60%	10767	667	267	1765	0.56
2007-2008	14	74	50%	250000	239233	119617	1588	227.94
2008-2009	13	73	40%	266500	16500	9900	1422	16.89
2009-2010	12	72	35%	284089	17589	11433	1266	17.37
2010-2011	11	71	30%	302839	18750	13125	1120	17.63
2011-2012	10	70	25%	322826	19987	14991	982	17.67
2012-2013	9	69	20%	344133	21307	17045	854	17.46
2013-2014	8	68	17%	366846	22713	18852	733	16.58
2014-2015	7	67	13%	391058	24212	21064	620	15.66
2015-2016	6	66	10%	416868	25810	23229	513	14.31
2016-2017	5	65	8%	444381	27513	25312	413	12.56
2017-2018	4	64	6%	473710	29329	27569	320	10.58
2018-2019	3	63	4%	504975	31265	30014	232	8.36
2019-2020	2	62	2%	538303	33328	32662	150	5.87
2020-2021	1	61	1%	573831	35528	35173	72	3.06
2021-2022	0	60	----	606000				405

EXPLANATION OF ABOVE TABLE FOR ESTIMATING SURVIVING PENSIONERS IN 2021-22:

In 2021-22, No. of pensioners = 6.06 lakhs (approx.) which include pensioners surviving pensioners over the years since 1994-1995.

Considering the mortality rate among elders in India, the above Table is obtained.

(vide <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1302846/india-mortality-rate-among-elderly-by-age-group/>)

Thus, in the year 1994-1995, there were estimated 5000 (Column-6), out of which at an age of 85 years in 2021-22, a total of 50 pensioners (Column-7) are estimated to be estimated to be alive 27 years after 1994-95, considering a mortality rate of 99%.

Thereafter, next year in 1995-96, 330 pensioners were added and with respective mortality rate of 98% at an age of 86 years in 2020-21, there are 7 pensioners estimated to be alive 26 years after 1995-96.

Similarly, surviving pensioners for all the subsequent years till 2021-22 have been estimated.

ASSESSMENT OF FUND AVAILABILITY FOR INTRODUCING PENSION ENHANCEMENT

This additional requirement of fund of Rs 405 crores can be had by one of the following ways:

- 1) Levying welfare cess on per tonne selling price of coal by CIL and SCCL, or
- 2) CIL and SCCL can earmark nominal percentage of profit before tax
- 3) Strengthening corpus fund whose investment will return a minimum Rs 405 crores

1) Levying welfare cess

Coal Production of CIL in 2020-21 was 754 Million Tonne

Cess generated by levy of Rs 10 per tonne of coal, Rs 754 Crore per year which is more than required Rs 405 crores

NOTE - Four of the Electricity Discom companies are levying a cess of 3.8% on consumers to strengthen the pension fund. This step has been upheld by Delhi High Court in 2020.

2) Earmarking nominal percentage of profit before tax

CIL and SCCL can earmark nominal percentage of profit before tax for the pension fund on the lines of post-retirement medical scheme CPRMSE (guidelines of DPE).

Net Profit of CIL during last 5 years (Rs. Crores):	
Financial Year	Net Profit
2023-2024	37,402
2022-2023	31,173
2021-2022	17,378
2020-2021	12,702
2019-2020	16,700

3) Strengthening the corpus fund

(i) Actual increment in place of Notional increment of employees

In place of Notional increment, let CIL and SCCL transfer the actual annual increment of employees year on year from 1/7/95 to 30/9/2017 on actual basis. This could fetch more than Rs 10000 crore which may strengthen pension fund.

(ii) Transfer of 9.84% of salary of on roll non-executive employees (as on 31-12-2006) to CMPS-1998 corpus fund

It is suggested that matching 9.84% of salary of non-executive employees, who were on roll of the company as on 31/12/2006, be earmarked and transferred to CMPS-1998 corpus fund. This will add another Rs 20000 crore to CMPS-1998 corpus fund for ensuring sustainability.

(iii) Executives joining on or after 1-1-2007 be allowed only New Pension Scheme with liabilities removed from CMPS-1998

- Apart from pension under CMPS-1998, w.e.f. 1.1.2007 the Executives are covered by pension under NPS (with 9.84 % of salary as superannuation benefit). This NPS corpus is more than 2000 cr.
- This fund towards those in-service members, who have joined CIL/SCCL and other involved organizations before 31/12/2006, could be transferred to CMPS-1998.

Comment: As per CMPF Act & CMPS-1998, this may not be possible as it is mandatory for every employee to be covered by CMPS-1998. Since NPS is part of Executive Pay Revision approved by the President of India such discrimination may not be possible.

(iv) Utilization of Suspense account fund blocked due to non-settlement of pension

- Out of available pension fund corpus, about 3%-5% unclaimed amount is remaining idle
- Due to cumbersome process for starting widow pension, more than 10% spouses could not claim their legitimate CMPS pension
- Moreover, in Suspense account, due to non-settlement of pension, more than Rs 2000 crore is lying idle with CMPFO. It can be also utilized

(v) Transfer of CMPF trust fund to CIL and SCCL to be managed by themselves which will minimize expenses on Administrative charges

It is suggested to transfer of CMPF trust fund to CIL and SCCL to be managed by themselves which will minimize expenses on Administrative charges. This is another viable option as these companies can manage this fund.

(vi) Contractor workers with ensured minimum wages be mandatorily covered under CMPS-1998

Real count of contractor workers should be taken and they should be mandatorily covered under CMPS-1998. Minimum wages should be as per High power committee recommendations.

All these suggested measures could yield a one-time increase of pension fund by Rs 30000 crores from the present Rs 13000 crores.

CONCLUSION

This is merely a study to examine the feasibility of pension enhancement. Our assumed figures for pension enhancement is, in no way connected to our conclusions. These values, including arrear payment, if any, can be decided scientifically at a later stage. Certainly, necessary urgent reforms are required to overhaul the ministry's approach, prioritize the welfare of retired coal miners, and ensure that their rightful pension benefits are promptly and fairly revised. It is a pity that, pensioners in coal sector are not asking for any mercy but, requesting compensating the loss of corpus and rightful returns out of their own contributions as per CMPS-1998 scheme's commitments which have been betrayed.



ALL INDIA ASSOCIATION OF COAL EXECUTIVES

ALL INDIA COAL PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION



दिनांक 18-11-2024 को, AICPA और सिंगरेनी रिटायर्ड वेलफेयर एसोसिएशन के एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने खम्मम लोकसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र, (तेलंगाना) के सांसद माननीय श्री रामासहायम रघुराम रेड्डी गारू से मुलाकात की और ऑल इंडिया कोल पेंशनर्स एसोसिएशन के संयोजक श्री पीके सिंह राठौर और सिंगरेनी रिटायर्ड वेलफेयर एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष श्री दंडमराज रामचंद्र राव, श्री गोदावर्ती मुरली, साथ ही टीयूसी के पूर्व सचिव एल वाई इस्माइल और सदस्य नरेदला सत्यनारायण, वहीद, श्रीनिवास द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित एक याचिका सौंपी।

माननीय सांसद ने तुरंत प्रतिक्रिया दी और आश्वासन दिया कि वह पेंशन दर बढ़ाने के लिए हस्तक्षेप करेंगे और समर्थन करेंगे। साथ ही, उन्होंने टिप्पणी की कि संबंधित अधिकारियों की लापरवाही के कारण पूरे भारत में कोयला खनिकों को अनुचित त्रासदी का सामना करना पड़ा है।

पत्र की सामग्री यहाँ अनुलग्नक में दी गई:-

On 18-11-2024, a delegation of AICPA and Singareni Retired Welfare Association called on Hon'ble Sri Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy Garu, Member of Parliament, Khammam Lok Sabha Constituency, (Telangana) and submitted a petition signed by Convenor of All India Coal Pensioners Association Shri PK Singh Rathore and President of Singareni Retired Welfare Association Shri Dandamraj Ramchander Rao, Mr. Godavarthy Murali, as well as L Y. Ismail, former secretary of TUC, and members Naredla Satyanarayana, Waheed, Srinivas.

Hon'ble MP promptly responded and assured that he would intervene and support to enhance the pension rate. Also, he remarked that the Coal Miners throughout India have been subjected to undue tragedy due to negligence of concerned authorities.

Content of the letter is as reproduced here in Annexure.

**ALL INDIA COAL PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION****(A non-political Coal Pensioners' Body)**

302, Block No. 4, RamKrishna Enclave, Nutan Chowk, Sarkanda, Bilaspur (C.G.)

E-mail : centralaicpa@gmail.com ; Ph. 9907434051

Letter No. 2024_AICPA_CENTRAL_Hyderabad_A**Dated_18-11-2024**

To
The Hon'ble Sri Ramasahayam Raghuram Reddy Garu
Member of Parliament,
Khammam Lok Sabha Constituency,
Telangana

Sub: Request to take up the issue of coal pensioners with the Minister of Coal so that their pension can be enhanced

Hon'ble Sir,

We represent the All India Coal Pensioners Association (AICPA), an association of serving and retired coal officers and employees of Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited. We work closely with our sister association, namely All India Association of Coal Executives (AICE), which comprises serving and retired officers belonging to CIL and SCCL and their widowed spouses as members.

These coal sector employees are covered under the pension scheme called CMPS-1998, and the fund management is done by CMPFO under the Ministry of Coal, Govt. of India. This CMPS-1998 scheme has been the subject of criticism and scrutiny, as is evident from the 12th Report No. 2193 of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) presented in Parliament on March 18, 2020.

(https://eparlib.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/809294/1/17_Public_Accounts_36.pdf)

The CMPS-1998 was notified on March 31, 1998, and the drawback of this scheme is that once the pension is fixed, it remains stagnant for years despite the provision for review of the scheme every three years and enhancement of pension.

It is to bring to your notice that many pensioners are getting less than Rs 1000 per month despite working in dirty environments for long hours to meet the energy needs of the country. Even the highest Board level and below Board level officials, who retired prior to 2007, are receiving meagre pensions, which are inadequate to lead a comfortable life. For Singareni Collieries Company Limited, the situation is even worse as the pensioners living outside the coalfield area are deprived of any medical benefits after retirement.

The present growth of the coal industry is mainly due to the conservation of coal reserves, which was carefully done by the same employees who are currently pensioners. CIL and SCCL are unable to help these retired employees, who are now pensioners, as they do not have the authority to handle and disburse pensions. It is a bitter truth that past decisions and present indecision have made the increase in pension for the pensioners a nightmare and a distant dream, as many elderly pensioners depart for heavenly abode every year. In view of these facts, we request your intervention in the matter so that the pension of these pensioners may be revised and increased by the concerned authorities without any further delay. We request to apprise Hon'ble Union Coal Minister to find an amicable solution to this complex issue.

Regards,

P K SINGH RATHOR

Convenor, AIACE/AICPA

**ALL INDIA COAL PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION**

(A non-political Coal Pensioners' Body)

302, Block No. 4, RamKrishna Enclave, Nutan Chowk, Sarkanda, Bilaspur (C.G.)

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Branch Office - HYDERABAD**P. K. Singh Rathor****Convenor****D. Ramchander Rao****Co-ordinator,
Hyderabad Branch****Letter No. AICPA/HYDERABAD /2024/022****Dated 19th December, 2024**

To
Hon'ble Smt. Draupadi Murmu ji,
President of India.

Sub: Plight of coal pensioners and enhancement of pension to retirees under CMPS-1998

Respected Madam,

It is a matter of joy that the Government is working round-the-clock for all around growth of this nation and, in the process, has done miracles to eradicate misery in the life of countrymen. Emboldened with this proactive determination of the Government, we wish to highlight one sector which needs immediate reforms.

To introduce ourselves, we represent serving and retired coal executives and employees of Coal India and Singreni Collieries.

The coal retirees are struggling for years for revision and enhancement of pension to them and waiting to see the dawn of their future.

We want to draw your attention towards the plight of pensioners of Coal India, Singreni collieries and other companies covered under CMPS-1998 and administered by Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO) under the administrative Ministry of Coal.

The PAC attached to the ministry of coal had submitted certain suggestions vide https://eparlib.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/809294/1/17_Public_Accounts_36.pdf. It has been heard that, in line with the report of PAC attached to coal ministry, steps are underway for addressing the aspirations and demand of the pensioners but the progress is very slow and no visible action is seen.

Appropriate advice to executive machinery is requested from the highest office of the country for taking speedy action on our problems as every day pensioners are leaving this earth for heavenly abode having waited so long to reap the benefit of pension revision.

Hope, our concerns will be taken care of and enhancement of pension under CMPS1998 is done.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

P.K.SINGH RATHOR
Convenor, AICPA

D. RMCHANDER RAO
Co-ordinator, AICPA, Hyderabad Branch