



ALL INDIA ASSOCIATION OF COAL EXECUTIVES (AIACE)

(Regd. under The Trade Union Act 1926; Regd. No. 546 / 2016)

302, Block No. - 304, RamKrishna Enclave, Nutan Chowk, Sarkanda, Bilaspur (CG);

Email: centralaiace@gmail.com; Ph. 9907434051

AIACE/CENTRAL/2019/49(2)

Dated - 13 /3 /2019

To

Sri Rahul Gandhi
President, Indian National Congress
12, Tughlak Lane, New Delhi - 110 011

Email -- office@rahulgandhi.in

Sub: Request for inclusion of Coal Pensioners' issue in Election Manifesto

Dear Sir,

All India Association of Coal Executives(AIACE) wants to bring to your kind notice that coal employees of CIL and SCCL are getting pension under provisions of CMPS 1998. The CMPS is applicable since 1/4/1994 and those who retired after that day are covered under the scheme. It is also brought to your kind notice that the executives /employees who retired before 1997 and 2007 are getting a meagre pension and it is very difficult to manage their life. You may be surprised to know that even CMDs/Directors who retired between 1994-2000 are getting a monthly pension between Rs 2000-5000, what to say about lower level executives and employees. Also ,those who retired before 1/4/1994 are not covered under CMPS 1998, although their numbers is very small. In all, about 4.5 lakh coal executives/employees are affected directly under CMPS 1998 and indirectly, taking their sons/daughters and other relatives in count , total 10 million people are affected which is a very sizable number in comparison to total population of our country. These 10 million people will remain grateful for consideration of demand for enhancement of pension of their relatives who have worked hard in their life to produce coal and whose labour in the past has enabled CIL/SCCL to produce coal as per expectation of our country for meeting energy need and lighting all houses of the country.

I, on behalf of our association and retired executives and employees of Coal Industry, request to include the plight of retired employees of coal industry in election manifesto. Needless to say that these are the same persons, who in their youth, had sacrificed a lot to meet the energy needs of this nation and had toiled hard to put our country in a position where it is as of now. They are now being neglected by all concerned and deprived of leading a respected life at the fag end of their lives.

Pension of about 4.5 lakh coal industry retired employees (executives and non-executives) under Coal Mines Pension Scheme 1998 (CMPS-1998) has never been revised since its inception 25 years ago. As a result ,the pensioners get a pension fixed at the time of retirement for any number of years they live.

CMPS-1998 is a contributory pension scheme, under the provisions of which there should be review of the Fund by the Board of Trustees (BOT) every three years based on the report of Actuary appointed for valuation of the fund. Unfortunately, for the reasons best known to them, the BOT and the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation (CMPFO) under the administrative control of Ministry of Coal have not taken any decision in this regard. The omissions and commissions of the BOT/CMPFO responsible for the fund management were highlighted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and parliamentary committees from time to time in their reports which are available in public domain.

While periodic pension revisions galore across the country for pensioners of central government, state governments and other establishments, the pension of retired coal mining industry employees who gave their blood, sweat, toil and tears in the most hazardous profession, is not getting enhanced in spite of several pay revisions of coal industry employees and ever increasing cost of living. It is a pity that some pensioners are getting far less pension than the prescribed minimum of Rs.1000/- per month..

We earnestly appeal to you to put plight of retired coal employees in your Election manifesto promising to take urgent steps for upward revision of pension and periodic revision thereafter linking to cost of living index or the pay revisions of coal industry employees so that pensioners of coal industry can live with dignity and honour in their sunset years.

Regards,



P K SINGH RATHOR
Principal General Secretary