

# DRATHYASA

A Bulletin of Reserve Bank Retired Employees' Association, Kochi

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## Pension updation

The issue of updation of pension is still hanging as the Govt. have not yet approved the amendments to the Pension Regulations empowering the RBI to update the pension of its retirees. However, certain improvements in the family pension and pension scheme have been reportedly cleared by the Government.

### **(i) Family Pension**

The ordinary rate of family pension will be 30% of the pay uniformly plus Dearness Relief, subject to a minimum of Rs. 3500/- p.m. and a maximum of Rs. 24,495/- p.m.(the ceiling of Rs. 24,495/- is 30% of the maximum pay of Gr. F officers at present).

### **(ii) Regulation 28(1):**

The rate basic pension will be fifty percent of the average emoluments for the last ten months or the last pay drawn whichever is more beneficial to the employee. The minimum pension is being raised to Rs. 3500-p.m.which is Rs. 720/-p.m. at present. The linkage of full pension with 33 years of service has been dispensed with. Service of 20 years will qualify for full pension – less than 20 years, pension will be on proportionate basis. Consequently, 5 years addition to qualifying service will not be available. The defined contributory 'new pension' scheme will be applicable to those who join the Bank on or after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012.

The improvement will not have retrospective effect but will have effect soon after the notification is published in the gazette of India.

## Writ Petition

The notice of motion No. 139 of 2012 by Ministry of Finance praying for expeditious hearing of writ petition No. 2403 of 2009, filed by our All India Association against withdrawal of bank's circular dated 10 October 2008, came up for orders before the Division Bench of Justice S.A. Bobde and Justice Ms Mridula Bhatkar of Bombay High Court on 2 August 2012. Addl. Solicitor General Shri. Biswajeet Bhattacharya appeared for Ministry; Ms Rajni Iyer for Reserve Bank. We were represented by adv. Ms. Jane Cox. Our Advocate objected to Addl. Solicitor General discussing the case on merits when the notice of motion was only for expeditious hearing. After discussions the Hon'ble Bench ordered that the petition would be heard on merits on 10 August 2012.

All India Association engaged the services of well known senior Advocate, Shri Rafique Dada to argue our case on 10 August 2012. He was ably assisted by Ms. Cox. Shri Dada very elaborately brought out the history of the case. He pointed out that in its orders dated 27 April 2009, the Hon'ble Bench had clearly observed that according to RBI counsel the only reason why the Bank had withdrawn the circular dated 1.9.2003 was the direction issued by the Govt. under section 7 of the RBI Act. After dealing with the matter in detail the Bench had in its order set aside the circular dated 10.10.2008. The speaking order of the Govt. however, clearly stated that there is no direction to the Bank under section 7 of the Act, *ibid*. On a query from the Hon'ble Bench what was the immediate cause for approaching the Bench at this stage, Shri. Dada pointed out that there was a threat that the updation may be withdrawn again. The Addl. Solicitor General tried to point out that the Central Board of the Bank had unanimously resolved to withdraw the updation in its meeting held on 14.08.2008. However the Hon'ble Bench did not accept the argument, stating

that the circular withdrawing the updation has been set aside by them. After that, the Hon'ble Court dicated an order asking RBI to make its submissions on certain points.

The next hearing of the case will be on 13.9.2012.

**Payment of Dearness Allowance/Dearness Relief**

The rates of Dearness Relief of Pension/ Family Pension/ Ex-Gratia for the period August 2012 to January 2013 will be worked out as under.

- i) On Pension based on the pay scales effective from November 1<sup>st</sup> 2007, 70.20% of basic pension.
- ii) The rates of dearness Relief in respect of pensioners who retired before November 1<sup>st</sup> 2007 and family pensioners will be as under:

Pension/family pension based on	Rate of Dearness relief for the period August 2012 to January 2013 as percentage of basic pension/ family pension
Pay- scales effective from November 1,2002 (CPI=2288)	108.90%
Pay- scales effective from November 1, 1997 (CPI=1684)	181.44%
Pay- scales effective from November 1,1992 (CPI =1148)	311.50%
Pay – scales effective from November 1, 1987 (CPI=600)	688.09%

**Medical Assistance Fund (MAF) Scheme**

The Group Mediclaim Policy (GMP) taken from United Insurance Co. Ltd. has since been renewed by Central Office for a further period of I year from 15<sup>th</sup> August 2012. There is no change in the name of TPA which continues to be MD India Healthcare Service Pvt. Ltd. for Kochi. The name of contact person is Shri. Shreejith Rajan attached to its Kochi Branch ( Near Lisie Hospital, Ernakulam North. (Mobile: 9349004423, e-mail: [shreejithr@mdinida.com](mailto:shreejithr@mdinida.com))

There is slight increase in the grade- wise limit per hospitalization of retired employees and spouses which is reproduce below:

Grades	Sum insured	Limit of bed charges (Rs.) per day for normal hospitalization	Limit of Bed charges (Rs) per day for ICU	Limit per hospitalization
1. Workmen (Class III &IV)	1,50,000	1,300	1,700	1,50,000
2. Officers Grade A&B	2,00,000	2,200	3,400	2,00,000
3. Officers grade C	2,00,000	2,750	4,200	2,00,000
4. Officers grade D	2,60,000	3,300	5,000	2,60,000
5. Office grade E	2,60,000	3,850	5,600	2,60,000
6. Officers grade F	2,60,000	4,400	6,300	2,60,000
7. ED's	3,50,000	Unlimited	Unlimited	3,50,000
8. Deputy Governors & Governors	3,50,000	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited

We have requested Kochi Office to send a copy of the relevant circular (COHRMD NO. G41/922/19.01.00/2012-2013 dated 14<sup>th</sup> August 2012 to all retirees for their information. In case of

non- receipt, they may contact Smt. Mohanakumari,, Asst. Manger, Medical Desk , Kochi Office (Ph: 0484-2402911- Extn: 303).

### Lisie Hospital Arrangement

Dr. George Xavier MD is now available for consultation for RBI employees and/ retirees, in addition to Dr.( Ms) Roja Joseph. There is no change in the timings which continue to be between 11 AM and 12 noon and 4 to 6 in the afternoon.

### What should be done for commencement of family pension after the death of a pensioner?

After the death of a pensioner, the matter regarding the demise should be reported to the Pension Cell of the office over phone followed by a letter by post or fax as early as possible. On obtaining the death certificate from the Corporation/ Municipality, a close relative or friend may visit the Pension Cell along with the original/ attested copy of the death certificate and meet the officer concerned for guidance for filling up various forms and other documents required for commencing the family pension. Application for family pension duly filled in and signed by the family pensioner /Ex – gratia beneficiary can be submitted by the relative or close friend of the family. The documents normally required for the purpose are: (i)Two passport size photographs of the applicant duly attested at the back by an officer of the bank where the applicant is maintaining the account (ii) self attested copy of Pan Card of the applicant,(iii) Photocopy of a cancelled Cheque leaf in respect of the bank account of the applicant and (iv) Pension Passbook. For more details Shri S. Ashokan Asst. Manager in-charge of Pension Cell, Kochi Office can be contacted (Ph: 0484-2402911-Extn:220)

### Beam Membership

The bank employees Arts Movement Ernakulam (BEAME), a cultural organization of bank and insurance employees in and around Kochi is committed to culture, art and entertainment and has been hosting aesthetically rich, socially relevant cultural programmes like drama , dance, magic show, Mohinyattam, Margam kali, Panchavadyam, kathaprasamgam, Bharatanatyam, kathakali, kuchupudi, etc. in an uninterrupted manner every month. **The programmes are regularly held at 6.30 in the evening on Fridays once a month in the TDM Hall , Fine Arts Hall or Town Hall, Ernakulam.** In addition to the monthly cultural programmes, every year BEAM conducts other programmes like art contests, sporting events, annual family get-together of members , etc. BEAM membership is open not only to serving bank employees , but to retired bank employees as well. The annual fee for a single and double membership is Rs. 500 and Rs. 800 respectively while only Rs. 1000 is charged for a family of four. If any of our members residing in and around Kochi are interested to become a member of BEAM, they may contact Shri. K.P. Johnkutty for membership form and for more details. ( House No. 32 /2022 'Bethel', MERWA 132A, Nethaji Road , Edappally, Kochi 682024 Cell No: 9496319511, e-mail : [kpjohnkutty@rediffmail.com](mailto:kpjohnkutty@rediffmail.com)).

#### **Holiday Home at Agra**

Employees of the Reserve Bank (Officers and Workmen staff) can avail of Holiday Home facility at Rail Tourist bungalow. Raja Kee Mandi in Agra with effect from June 1, 2012. The Administrative control of the holiday home will be with Kanpur office. The period of allotment will be for a maximum of ~~07~~ days at a time. This was communicated by HRMD, Central Office in its circular dated may 23, 2012.

#### **Holiday Home at Shirdi**

Workmen staff of the Reserve bank can avail of Holiday Home facility at Hotel Sai Sahawas, Pimpalwadi Road in Shirdi with effect from May 18, 2012. The administrative control of the holiday home will be with Mumbai office. The period of allotment will be for a maximum of two days at a time. This was communicated by HRMD, Central Office in its circular dated May 16, 2012.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

### On Family Pension

Retirees Hitgij (a Bombay Unit publications) of July 15 reports that Govt. has agreed to the Bank's proposal that the ordinary rate of family pension should be 30% of pay uniformly plus D.R subject to a minimum of Rs. 3500/-p.m. and a maximum of Rs. 24495/- p.m. The report also says that these improvements will come into effect only after the notification is published in the gazette of India and that they will not have retrospective effect.

Since families of pre 1.11.92 retirees are already drawing 30% of LDP as family pension up to Rs. 1500 and families of retirees between 1.11.92 and 31.10.97 30% of LDP, upto Rs. 2870, there will be no increase in their family pension unless the proposed minimum pension of Rs. 3500 is applied respectively. It is also not known whether the medical Assistance now enjoyed by the family pensioners will continue. A full picture will emerge only after the issue of the A.C. Till then the compliment bestowed on the Governor, HRMD Chief and the United Forum by the Hitgij appear to be a bit premature. It is yet to be known whether the requisite amendments in the form of a resolution have been passed at any of the meetings of the Central Board. Going by the precedent, it will take at least 3 months to complete the formalities before the issue of the A.C., the first being submission of the draft gazette notification to the Govt. for vetting. There is also scope for mischief between the cup and the lip. Let us, however, remain optimistic and pray GOD that nothing untoward will happen.

K.G.K. Pillai

### Obituary

1. Shri. K.George , (79) Asst. Manager who was working in Kochi Office during eighties and later in Trivandrum Office, expired in Chennai on 9-06-2012 due to a sudden cardiac arrest . We pray for his soul to rest in peace.
2. Dr. V.P. Bhat (87) former Chief Medical Officer expired on 8-07-2012. Dr. Bhat would be remembered as one of the finest Medical Officers by many of those who worked in Mumbai during the last four to five decades
3. Senior Adv. K.K. Singhvi(85) who successfully pleaded our case against withdrawal of updation of pension and obtained a stay, expired on 14-04-2012 at Lonavala. We pay our respectful homage to him.

Edited by: Shri M.O. Sebastian, Secretary, Ph: 0484-2541930, 9895178211

Acknowledgements: 'HITGUJ'