

# General Insurance Pensioners Association, Western Zone

Sterling cinema building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 65 Murzban Street, Fort, Mumbai 400001.

Telephone: 022-22070058/3058

Date : 21-2-2022

Re: During last two years in spite of Covid19 we have carried out our responsibility and service towards our members.

Dear Pensioners,

We are just coming out from the Covind'19 pandemic followed by its another character Omicron which targeted almost 4 cores of people and death toll of around 5 lacs people(approx.). Rest recovered after hospitalisation or treatment at home. Many senior citizens became target of this pandemic. We lost some of dear and near one. We once again pay our homage to all the pensioners and their families who had gone heaven abode due this epidemic. Slowly we are coming back to normalcy and remembering the experience of lockdown, curfew by sitting at home.

You are aware GIPA WZ is the backbone of General Insurance Pensioners All India Federation. Once All India Federation gives a call for any action plan to implement, our Zonal Organization take the lead followed by other zones and units. We would like to inform you once again our All-India Federation submitted Charter of Demands to GIPSA and CMDs of four PSGI Companies and GIC Re in April 2019. Our top priority in the charter is to get minimum 30% basic pay as Family Pension instead of present 15%. The widows who are spouse of pensioners of late 1990s and early 2000 are currently getting Family Pension of just about Rs.4500/- to Rs.5000/-. They are facing tremendous financial hardship to manage their families. To bring the attention of GIPSA and Finance Ministry to raise the minimum Family Pension from 15% basic to 30% All India Federation gave call for staging Dharna at all Metropolitan cities and West Zone unit organised a successful one-day Dharna at Azad Maidan where more than 50 widows along with our committee members and male pensioners participated in December 2019. There after a massive Dharna for the same cause was arranged in the month of February, '20 at Jantar Mantar, Delhi. 25 widows from our Zone participated in the one-day Dharna, which was attended by more 150 family pensioners all over the country. We met Jt. Secretary and Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance twice in Delhi during the last one and half years to pursue the issue along with improvement in our present Group Medical Policy. Since GIPSA Chairman at present is New India CMD, we met him number of times to pursue these issues. General Secretary also had the opportunity to discuss these points with GIPSA officials. All these efforts did not go in vain. Recently we came to know from GIPSA officials they have recommended for increase in Basic Family pension rate from 15% to 30% of basic pay to Department of Financial Service and now awaiting final clearance of Secretary DFS. It may come any time from now.

During the Covid lockdown GIPAIF had given a call as per Prime Minister's appeal to donate in PM's Care Fund and our zone could collect from you all generous Donation of about seven lacs for this noble cause. Our All-India Federation handed over all together twenty-five lacs in PM's Care Fund.

We always keep our concern on how best we can provide affordable medical cover to see that pensioners can enjoy hassle free healthy life. We would like to recall here at the time of last GMP premium GIPSA tried to impose 47.5% loading in the basic premium. We strongly resisted and took up the issue with Jt. Secretary DFS and succeeded in reducing the loading to the extent of 25%. GIPSA companies wanted to impose the balance 22.5% this time renewal. Once again, your association persuaded GIPSA the present situation does not permit for any increase in retirees' premium. Please note this year medical premium there is no change. Premium rate will be as like last year. We have now taken up strongly with GIPSA to Provide us the facility to pay the premium in instalments. This will give a great relief to all of us as to pay 30 or 40 thousand pay at a time put tremendous hardship. Your association is on the job, we need your support and cooperation for the same. We have also taken up the issues like reimbursement of diagnostic test, remove the cap in oral cancer treatment, knowing fully the weak financial conditions of three PSGI companies. Because of this reason we have pushed the agenda of revision of pension little

back for the time being. GIPAIF is now one of the constituents of Jt. Forum and we therefore appeal all of you to participate in maximum strength whenever a call is given. Unity is the need of the hour. Let's strengthen it.

Federation had organised its 6<sup>th</sup> Conference at Jodhpur in October 2021. Shri Atul Sahai, CMD New India was the Chief Guest and Smt. Smita Srivastav, CEO HITPA was the Guest of Honour. Besides them Shri K N Bhandari and Shri Suparas Bhandari both ex- CMD's were present as Hon. Guest. Conference discussed many important issues including amendment in GIBNA. It was decided to explore the possibility of challenging the amendment in Court.

Now GIPA WZ is holding its 20<sup>th</sup> Conference on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March at Rajkot. We expect around one hundred delegates to take part. The budgeted estimate of the conference will be approx. Rupees three lacs. Mumbai unit had the opportunity to publish the book written by our founder member, guide and President of GIPAIF Shri Kaka Samant. The book "Brief History of Union Movement in Non-Life Insurance Industry" was released on 31st July, '21 at Bhupesh Gupta Bhavan. Its contents are mainly on history of various events in the industry and his own experience in working with various people from union and management platform. Members are requested to read the book and know about how union worked at that time in tandem for the progress of the industry.

With deep sorrow we would like to inform you that Shri S K Jaykar, Office bearer and a very sincere, jovial, and active worker of GIPAWZ and GIPAIF expired in the month of November, '21. We have lost a very good person.

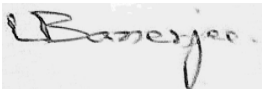
Mumbai unit used to take part in Mumbai Marathon in large numbers but due to Covid19 it is kept in abeyance by TCS for last two years. In West Zone, besides Mumbai Centres, other two centres like Pune and Nagpur carry out various activities like picnic, get together, AGM etc. Both the centres our members attend send-off function of retirees on their last working day and make them member. Our membership strength is growing, and we are having around four thousand members in our roll.

It's good news that Pensioners will get 74 slabs Dearness Relief in February pension payable on 1<sup>st</sup> March, '22. Though prices of everything is going upwards but we are getting something as relief. We take the opportunity to appeal you to donate generously to GIPA WZ as you have done in the past. Without having sufficient funds, we cannot carry out various activities like maintaining our Website (GICPA), postage, travelling printing and stationery etc. Our accounts are audited every year by CA and is approved in the AGM. Further, we are registered under TU Act, and we submit our returns to Trade Union Registrar's office every year.

Details of General Insurance Pensioners Association, Western Zone bank a/c is Canara Bank, Fort Main Branch, Fort Mumbai 400 001, **Account No.0108101600181, IFSC CNRB0000108** Branch Code 400015024. Please WhatsApp the U.T.R.No. & Date of Transfer to Mobile No.9870000663 or by depositing crossed Cheque in favour of "**General Insurance Pensioners' Association W Z**" at any Canara Bank branch near you quoting the Cheque No. & date of deposit to the above WhatsApp Number.

Pensioners from Mumbai always come forward whenever we appeal, this time we are sure you will response overwhelmingly.

With greetings,



U. Banerjee  
General Secretary.