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## NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON PENSION LITIGATION

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Address of V.Srinivas, Secretary Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare at  
the National Workshop on Pension Litigation, Vigyan Bhavan New Delhi

Dated 2 July 2025



**Address of Shri V. Srinivas, Secretary DARPG and DPPW at National Workshop  
on Pension Litigation dated 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2025.**

Respected Dr. Jitendra Singh Ji, Hon'ble MoS(PP).  
Learned Attorney General of India, Shri R. Venkatramani Ji,  
Secretary Law Smt. Anju Rathi Rana Ji,  
Secretary Ex-Serviceman Welfare Shri Niten Chandra Ji,  
Member CAT Dr. Chhabilendra Roul ji,  
Learned Additional Solicitor General of India Shri Vikramjit Banerjee Ji,  
Joint Secretary, DoPPW Shri Dhruvajyoti Sengupta Ji,  
Nodal Officers of all Ministries and Departments handling Pension Litigation,  
Panel Lawyers, Distinguished colleagues.

I extend a warm and hearty welcome to Hon'ble MoS(PP) for sparing his valuable time to participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> National Workshop on Pension Litigation. I also extend warm and hearty welcome to Learned Attorney General of India Shri R.Venkataramani ji, my distinguished colleagues Secretary Law Smt. Anju Rathi Rana ji, Secretary Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Shri Niten Chandra ji, Member CAT Dr. Chhabilendra Roul ji,, Learned Additional Solicitor General of India Shri Vikramjit Banerjee ji, Joint Secretary, DoPPW Shri Dhruvajyoti Sengupta ji, Nodal Officers and the Panel Lawyers of Ministries/ Departments of Government of India attending this National Workshop today.

Over the past decade, the Government of India has embarked on an extraordinary period of progressive Pension legislation that is oriented towards timely updation of Pension Laws, simplifying interpretations in Pension Forms, exploring alternate dispute

resolution for by strengthening grievance redressal systems on CPENGRAMS and digital empowerment of pensioners for improving ease of living of pensioners. Hon'ble MOS PP launched the CCS(Pension) Rules, 2021 on December, 25 2021 at Vigyan Bhawan. Thereafter CCS(NPS) Rules, 2021, the CCS (EOP) Rules, 2021 were released by him in the year 2023 and the Single Unified Pension Form was released in July 2024. This was further backed by the successful conduct of 19 Pension Adalats from 2017-2025, each of which were chaired by Hon'ble MOS PP, in which 18,500 cases were redressed with particular emphasis on Family Pension cases. Government pursued the integration of Pension Portals of all Banks with BHAVISHYA to provide greater transparency in pension payments. The digital empowerment of pensioners was achieved through the Digital Life Certificate Campaign which benefited 4.6 crores pensioners in the last 3 years. Each of these significant milestones were featured in the 11 years achievements of Government released by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India through its rulings has enabled evolution of progressive Pension Laws. The Office Memorandum of the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare dated 3 March, 2023 provided Central Government officials a one time option to shift from New Pension Scheme to Old Pension Scheme, the Office Memorandum dated 1 January, 2024 provided female Government employees an option to nominate children for pension instead of spouse and the amendment in Rule 37 of the CCS (Pension) Rules to streamline procedures in the BSNL-MTNL case, each of which were implemented in pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India

and represent steps for simplification of pension rules keeping in view the larger benefits to Pensioners. The Pension Adalat has provided tremendous relief to Family Pensioners. The Government had conducted the Special Campaign for redressal of family pension cases from July 1-31, 2024 in which nearly 2000 family pension grievances were redressed.

One of the most complicated pension litigation matters emerged in the year 2024 “The S-30 Pensioner’s Association versus Government of India”. The implementation roadmap of the various courts judgements in this particular case necessitated nearly 30 meetings with Learned Attorney General of India, Learned ASG, Secretary Law, Secretary Legislative Department, Secretary Department of Expenditure and necessitated the enactment of the “Validation of Pension Rules, 2025.” The validation of Pension Rules do not in any way change or alter the existing pensions so fixed of existing civil pensioners from the present state. The validation of Pension Rules also do not affect Defence Pensioners in any way as they are covered by separate rules.

In formulating the replies of the pension litigations in the “S-30 versus Union of India” cases, it was observed that in several matters the Additional Solicitor General and the panel lawyers were not having adequate case details, short timelines to file replies and contempt cases were being taken up at last minute with Department/Ministries. To address these challenges, the Department of Pension and Pensioners’ Welfare issued the policy circular dated 15.07.2024 mandating that policy matters in which judgements

have been pronounced against the Government may be referred to the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare at the first appeal stage rather than 2<sup>nd</sup> appeal stage.

The Department of Legal Affairs "Directive for "Effective and Efficient Management of Litigation in Government of India" dated 4 April 2025 is futuristic in nature. The broader objectives of the Directive seek to streamline administrative processes involved in the conduct of litigation, reduce litigation of recurring nature, reduce anomalies in statutory notifications and administrative orders and reduce unnecessary appeals against orders of Court, put in place a sound knowledge management system and avoid contempt of court cases through enhanced monitoring of compliance matters and using technology as a force multiplier.

In my meetings with Secretary, Law, in the run up of this workshop, it was observed that there is a need for greater Inter Ministerial coordination between Department of Expenditure, Department of Legal Affairs, Department of Pensions and Department of Personnel and Training in handling Pension Litigation, a need for strengthening capacities of dedicated legal cells, appointment of responsible Nodal Officers at Joint Secretary/ Director level to oversee litigation, review of pending cases in CAT and a functional alternate dispute resolution mechanism for pension cases.

LIMBS is an effective digital platform for monitoring Pension Litigation and the Next generation LIMBS should be rolled out in a timely manner. The Learned Additional Solicitor General in the technical session had highlighted the gamut of notable judgements in pension litigation – The D.S. Nakara versus Union of India case , A.P.

Srivastava versus Union of India case, Aakara versus Union of India, The All Manipur Pensioners Association versus State of Manipur and the S-30 Pensioners Association versus Union of India. It is important for Nodal Officers to carefully study these notable judgements of the Hon'ble Supreme Court to enhance their capacities for effective management of pension Litigation. The roadmap forward envisages formulation of CCS (UPS) Rules, 2025 and streamlining Family Pension Rules under Rule 50, further updation of the LIMBS Portal and implementing Family Pension Campaign 2025 from July 1-31, 2025.

Pension reminds us of the quote from Manusmriti "*Raja Dharmena Krutva Pragya, Sarvadharm Niyo Jayata*" which means The King having governed the kingdom in accordance with Dharma must ensure that his people remain dedicated to their respective duties. The progressive formulation of pension rules has streamlined processes and enabled pensioners welfare significantly. There is a need to address pending Litigation and the 1<sup>st</sup> National Workshop will take forward the Government's objective of efficient and effective management system in litigation as laid down in the 2024 Directive.

To conclude, let me express my gratitude to the Hon'ble Mos(PP), Learned Attorney General of India, Secretary Law, Secretary Ex-Serviceman Welfare, Member CAT, Learned Solicitor General of India, Joint Secretary, DoPPW, Nodal Officers of all Ministries and Departments handling Pension Litigation, Panel Lawyers, Distinguished colleagues for their support to the 1<sup>st</sup> National Workshop on Pension Litigation.

Jai Hind.