

Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare

Important events for the month of September, 2019 are as follows:-

- (i) 31st meeting of Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies(SCOVA) under the chairmanship of Hon'ble MoS(PP) was held on 5th September, 2019, in which 14 Pensioners Associations participated. The meeting was also attended by representatives of various Ministries/Departments/Banks. SCOVA, which was constituted in 1986, has been functioning ever since, with the objective of providing feedback on program implementation of the departments to critically discuss and examine new policy initiative and also to mobilize voluntary efforts to supplement Government action. It comprises 15 Non official members represented by the Pensioners' Associations from various Regions/States and Official Members represented by various Departments/Ministries.
- (ii) Rule 54(3) of Family Pension Rules, 1964 has been amended vide extraordinary gazette notification dated 20.09.2019, as part of the 100 days initiative of the department. Earlier, for Families of Government servant dying in harness for reasons other than attributable to government duty, the admissible Family Pension was 30% of last pay drawn, if the official had not put in at least 7 years of service. For the Families of those Government servants who had put in at least 7 years or more of service, the admissible Family Pension was at an enhanced rate of 50% of the last pay drawn. This distinction of the No. of years of service was found to be unfair and removed with effect from 1st October 2019 and now enhanced Family Pension would also be admissible to the families of all Government Servant in the unfortunate event of their death even before their completing 7 years of service.
- (iii) As part of this Department's special emphasis to Jammu, a presentation on Bhavishya was given to J&K administration for adopting Good Governance practices after restructure in of the status. This was followed up with a workshop on Bhavishya at Jammu which was conducted for the personnel of the border Secretary Force Jammu on 25th September, 2019
- (iv) Draft Service Rules for Central Government employees covered under NPS were framed and circulated on 05.06.2018 to the concerned Departments for their

comments. Comments have been received from Department of Expenditure, DoPT , CGA & PFRDA. However, comments from Department of Financial Services are awaited. A meeting with PFRDA was held on 16.09.2019 to discuss draft service rules.

(v) A separate set of Rules on Gratuity payable to NPS subscribers have also been drafted by this Department and have been sent to the Department of Expenditure, CGA and DoPT for comments on 01.07.2019. Comments from these Departments are awaited.

(vi) Hindi Pakhwara was organized from 13 September to 27 September 2019 in this Department. Various Hindi related activities such as competitions and cultural programmes were organized during the Hindi fortnight for the officials of this Department.