

Sub-Outcome of the meeting held on November 21, 2017 with Shri Alope Mishra, ED, Chief ER.

During our discussion with Sri D D Mishra Dir(HR) on 15th November on our various issues, he organized a meeting with Sri Alope Mishra ED, Chief ER who is more conversant with the present status of our concerned issues and accordingly myself and our President Sri A K Hazarika met him in his office at Green building on 21st November 2017 to get the latest update and the views of the Management on various welfare schemes for the retired executives, particularly those who retired before 2007. Following are the outcome of the meeting for appraisal of all members of our Company specially for those who retired prior to 2007.

1. Asha Kiran : The proposal for Asha Kiran is to be deliberated in the next Board Level Committee, by end November, and orders may be expected in December for release of payment for the year 2017-18. After issue of the order members can claim the amount by submitting the forms. The proposal for certain improvements in the Scheme is also under discussion which will need Board's approval first and then Administrative Ministry which will take some time. The improvement likely are:

i. The limit of income not exceeding Rs 10,000 from all sources may be increased to Rs. 20,000 from all sources. With this, it is expected that additional 6000 retired executives may be able to avail the facility, increasing to total beneficiaries under this scheme will go upto 20000 from level of 14000

ii. Based on Self- certification, the amount which may be claimed is proposed to be increased to Rs. 1,20,000/- per year from the present level of Rs. 1,10,000/- per year.

2. Agrani Samman: ONGC is examining the possibility of extending the facility of Agrani Samman to all retired Executives who retired prior to 2007. In that case, Asha Kiran shall also be merged with it with an idea of one type of financial benefit to Retirees prior to 2007 and better Ex-gratia amount on yearly basis. But it has to be managed every year based on availability of funds under 1.5 % of PBT, therefore it will not be an uniform pension type policy.

3. Felicitation : It has been proposed to extend Felicitation to all seniors on attaining the age of 70 years and then after every 5 years i.e. at 75, 80, 85, 90 years and so on... Thus retirees attaining 80, 85, 90 or higher will also be able to claim it. It was argued to increase the felicitation amount up to Rs.1,00,000/-. On our request, it has also been agreed that some retirees who missed out to claim at any particular age and have reached a higher stage of age, may be able to claim for that missed out felicitation amount retrospectively. The present system as formulated by ICE is not permitting that but the same is under process of change and Mrs Manjari Nigam GM(HR) confirmed to President that this will be done shortly and order will be issued to release all such amount to members who missed claim after attaining the prescribed stage of age.

4. Corpus amount: We requested ONGC to create the corpus of 1.5 % of PBT w.e.f 2009 i.e. from the date the first Circular issued by DPE to create such a corpus to meet

the Medical and Emergency needs of Retired Employees Sri Mishra confirmed that ONGC is considering our request to include the amounts of 1.5% PBT since 2009 to the Corpus so that the total amount available in the corpus for retired employees shall become large and better benefit can be extended to retirees specially to those retired prior to 2007. It is also being proposed to exclude the medical expenses from this corpus, as medical benefit is anyway available to all retired employees.

5. EPF 95: ONGC has discussed the matter with Deputy Chief Commissioner of EPFO. The serious issue before the EPFO is availability of funds. The amount to be paid to all retirees as per Supreme Court order is very large and they won't have so much funds available. However, since so many cases have been filed, the matter is sub-judice and they do not wish to comment on this presently. Our President has already submitted a letter to this effect to Chairman and Dir(HR) including other issues.

6. Purchase of medicines: The process for enlisting a pharmacy chain for providing medicines to ONGC employees and retirees against prescription, without paying cash is in progress, and may be started in the metro cities soon. The similar system is existing in some work centers which is a local arrangement. The proposal now is for a universal system, which shall be extended to all work centers in due course.

All these deliberation with Sri Mishra are under fluid stage at this moment and so he requested not to be taken as confirmed but he assured sincere approach from their side to get them approved from competent authority as soon as possible.

Ashok Varma
(VP, EOEW, DELHI)