

ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
LIC BUILDINGS SECRETARIAT ROAD HYDERABAD 500 063
(E-mail: aiieahyd@gmail.com)

Cir.No.20 / 2023

11th September, 2023

To
All the Zonal /Divisional /State /Regional Units

Dear Comrades,

**Gazette Notification for Payment of Family Pension at a uniform rate of 30% without any
Ceiling Issued**
A Long Pending Demand of Employees and Pensioners finally clinched

The government today finally came out with the Gazette Notification No.G.S.R.662(E) dated 11th September 2023 enhancing the payment of family pension to LIC pensioners at a uniform rate of 30% without any ceiling effective from the date of its publication in the official gazette. With this notification, a long pending demand of the employees and pensioners is finally achieved after a long and protracted struggle of almost four years. The AIIEA congratulates all the employees, pensioners and family pensioners of LIC for this magnificent achievement. The government is yet to come out with the notification of this benefit for pensioners of Public Sector General Insurance Companies. The AIIEA will continue to struggle on this issue to make sure that these benefits also flow to the pensioners of PSGI companies.

The AIIEA had raised the demand for payment of family pension at an enhanced rate of 30% without any ceiling long back. This demand was based on the understanding that Pension in insurance industry was introduced in the year 1995 on the lines of the Central Government Pension Scheme. Therefore, there was no reason why family pension in insurance industry should continue to be 15% while it was 30% in central government. The LIC saw merits in the argument of the AIIEA and sent its recommendation to the government for enhancement of family pension in November 2019. After some dithering, the GIPSA also sent its recommendation to the Government in December 2021. The issue however remained pending for quite a long time, even though the benefit was extended to pensioners of public sector banks, RBI, NABARD and RRBs.

AIIEA had been regularly following up the issue with the LIC management. The 26th General Conference of AIIEA resolved to launch struggle on the issue, including a strike action, if the notification was not issued early. Insurance employees all over the country held gate demonstrations during lunch recess on this demand on 29th March 2023 expressing solidarity with the Dharna programme of Pensioners under the banner of the AIIPA. The AIIEA took up the issue with the Chairperson of LIC on 27th July 2023 and informed that employees would be left with no option than to go on strike action if there was any further

delay in the notification. The Chairperson assured the AIEA delegation that he would personally take up the matter with the Ministry. The Jodhpur Secretariat meeting of the AIEA on 28-29 July also expressed its firm resolve to launch struggle on the issue by approaching the Joint Front of Unions in LIC. We are happy to note that the pensioners under the banner of the AIIPA took up a massive campaign of meeting Members of Parliament with a request to take up this issue with the government. As a result, 90 MPs belonging to all political parties wrote to the Finance Minister to concede this legitimate demand. A number of MPs also raised this issue on the floor of the Parliament. The Prime Minister was also approached with memorandums seeking his personal intervention to resolve this issue. As a part of this struggle, a delegation consisting of the President and General Secretary of AIIPA accompanied by Com. John Brittas, MP (Rajyasabha) of CPI(M) met the Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman in her Parliament House Chamber on 2nd August 2023 and requested for early notification. The Joint Front of Unions in LIC took up this issue with the management and made extensive preparations for a Two Hour Walk Out Strike on 12th September 2023. It was only when the management made a written appeal to the Joint Front constituents assuring early notification of the family pension issue that the strike was deferred.

Finally, after a long and protracted struggle the notification is issued for LIC pensioners. We congratulate all employees, pensioners, family pensioners and our partners in the Joint Front for this magnificent achievement. We profusely thank all the Members of Parliament who took up our issue with the government as well as in the floor of Parliament.

While celebrating this achievement in LIC, we must continue with our struggle to realise this demand for employees of Public Sector General Insurance Companies. The AIEA assures our comrades in PSGI companies that there won't be any let up in our struggle as long as the demand for enhanced family pension is not achieved in PSGI companies.

With Greetings,

Comradely Yours



General Secretary