JOINT FORUM FOR RESTORATION OF OLD PENSION SCHEME

(NJCA)

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No. JFROPS/NJCA/2024/2

February 29, 2024

To Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, South Block, New Delhi

Sub:- Conveying of the Decision taken by JFROPS under compelling circumstances to proceed with an indefinite Strike by Central Government and State Government Employees in support of the demand to Scrap the No Guarantee NPS and to restore back the Defined and guaranteed Pension under CCS(Pension) Rules 1972 (now 2021) to the Central and State Government Employees – Reg.,

Ref:- Memorandum Dated10/08/2023 submitted by the JFROPS to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

Respected Sir,

The Joint Forum for Restoration of Old Pension Scheme (JFROPS) is a forum under the National Joint Council of Action consisting of various All India Federations and Associations of Central Government Employees including Railways, Defence Civilians, Postal, Income Tax, Accounts and Audit, etc and also of the various State Government Employees and Teachers Organizations. The only Major Demand for which this Forum is constituted is to "Scrap the No Guarantee NPS and to Restore the Defined and Guaranteed Pension under CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 (now 2021)" to the Government Employees recruited on or after 01/01/2004. The Central Government Employees Organizations participating in the JCM Fora, right from the day when the Government announced its decision during the year 2003 to replace the Defined and Guaranteed Pension Scheme under CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 (now 2021) and to introduce a Contributory Pension Scheme which is a failed model all over the world, we opposed the Contributory Pension Scheme(NPS) and have demanded that Government Employees who sincerely serve for the Nation and the people of the Country round the clock should not be subjected to the vagaries of the Market and that after Retirement they should have a decent and dignified Retired Life through a defined and guaranteed pension. Unfortunately, the successive Governments have not considered our genuine demand even though several times we raised this demand in the meetings of the National Council JCM.

The Staff Side of the National Council JCM appeared before the High Level Committee constituted by your honour under the Chairmanship of the Finance Secretary twice and placed before him, all the justifications for Scrapping the NPS and to Restore the Defined and Guaranteed Pension Scheme under CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 (now 2021). However till date we are not aware about the recommendations of the High Level Committee. You will be astonished to know that even after 20 years of the implementation of the NPS the employees Retiring from NPS are getting monthly Pension of only Rs.2000/- to Rs.4000/- every month which is never subjected to any increase or revision including no compensation of price rise as available in the Pension Scheme under CCS (Pension) Rules 1972.

You will appreciate that the Government Employees during their service contribute to the cause of the Nation during their service span ranging from 30 to 40 years and at the age of 60 they cannot suddenly start earning their livelihood to sustain themselves which they were having while in service. You will also appreciate that it is always the Government Employees who stand like a rock with the Government with all commitment and devotion during any Crisis / Emergency / War Situation to fulfill the duty of the Government towards the people and the country. The Covid-19 Pandemic and the Kargil Crisis were some of the Examples where the Government Employees have contributed their maximum to the Nation.

Since the Government has not taken any steps to favorably consider our demand we are relentlessly protesting through our Trade Union Actions constitutionally without hampering the day to day function of the Government in a peaceful manner. On the 10th of August 2023 more than 2.5 Lac Central and State Government Employees assembled at Ramlila Maidan, New Delhi and took unanimous decision to go for an Indefinite Strike for the above major demand and this decision was communicated to your honor and also the Hon'ble Finance Minister on the same day through a detailed Memorandum justifying our demand to scrap NPS and to restore Defined and Guaranteed Pension Scheme under CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 (now 2021). However we regret to inform your honor that there is no positive response from the Government so far in this regard. Ultimately a strike ballot was also taken from amongst the employees and almost 95 percent of the employees voted in favor of an indefinite strike in support of the above demand.

Sir, since all our sincere efforts failed to yield any fruitful result, the JFROPS is forced to take the decision under compelling circumstances to go for an Indefinite Strike, since we cannot remain as a silent spectator when the Retiring Government Employees are getting only a meager pension of Rs.2000/- to 4000/-per month from NPS whereas the Pension under CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 (now 2021) is 50% of the last Basic Pay drawn by the Employees subject to a minimum of Rs.9000/- + Dearness Relief every month. Therefore it has been unanimously decided by the JFROPS the following:

- To Serve Strike Notice on the Government on 19/03/2024 after holding massive demonstrations on the Employer / Government / Department / Office, etc.
- To Commence Indefinite Strike from 8.00 AM on 01/05/2024 in all the Central Government, State Government Departments and organizations including Universities, Colleges and Schools in support of our Major Demand "To Scrap the No Guarantee NPS and to Restore the Defined and Guaranteed Pension Scheme under CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 (now 2021)."

We are confident that your honor will consider the genuine grievance of the Government Employees since it is concerning their old age protection after retirement, and your Government will take historic decision of Scrapping the NPS and restoring the Defined and Guaranteed Pension Scheme under CCS (Pension) Rules 1972 (now 2021) for which the committed Central Government and State Government Employees will always remain grateful and it will go a long way in motivating the employees and to attract talent to the Government service.

A Delegation of the JFROPS also would like to meet your honor in person to submit our views in this regard and hence a few minutes of your valuable time may please be spared to us.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Shiva Gopal Mishra)

Convener

(Dr. M. Raghavaiah)

Co- Convener

Copy to:-

- 1. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman ji, Honorable Finance Minister Government of India, North Block. New Delhi.
- 2. Dr. Jitendra Singh ji, Minister of State for Personnel and Pension Government of India, North Block. New Delhi.
- 3. The Cabinet Secretary & Chairman, National Council JCM Rashtrapathi Bhawan, New Delhi.

For kind information and favorable action please.