

**REPLY GIVEN BY RAILWAY BOARD TO BPS  
ON THE RESOLUTIONS OF 2<sup>ND</sup> CONVENTION OF RAILWAY PENSIONERS  
REG: EX-GRATIA PAYMENT TO SRPF OPTEEES**

1(vii)

**Ex-gratia for Pre 1986 SRPF beneficiaries & their families:-**

Very few (a very small number) of Pre-1986 SRPF(C) beneficiaries are now alive, they are at present being forced to live below poverty line due to meagre ex-gratia of Rs.650 to Rs.3000. Dearness relief too in the case of family recipients is lower by 8% as compared to other pensioners. Their dependent children i.e. unmarried/widowed/divorced daughter, mentally, physically & visually disabled sons, too are being discriminated against by not allowing them the same entitlement to the meagre ex-gratia on their turn. Certainly they too are entitled to lead a dignified life comparable to their earlier status in younger (working) days as Railway Employees. Keeping in view the present day cost of living, a highly inflationary regime and humanitarian factors, they deserve to be considered for another chance to come over to Pensionary benefits. As the number involved is very few, it would not cause any appreciable financial burden on the Government.

In the case of payment of ex-gratia to widows and eligible dependent children of deceased SRPF (C) optees, this Ministry follows the instructions issued by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare, the nodal department of the Government in such matters and hence, this Ministry cannot take any unilateral decision in the matter.

As regards the demand for giving another chance to the surviving SRPF beneficiaries to come over to the pension scheme, it is brought out that the Pension Scheme was introduced on the Railways on 16-11-1957 with retrospective effect from 01-04-1957. As per this scheme, the employees who joined service on and after 16-11-1957 were compulsorily governed by the Pension Scheme and the employees who were in service between 01-04-1957 and 16-11-1957 were given an option to come over to the Pension Scheme. Subsequently, whenever the pension scheme underwent progression due to recommendations of successive Central Pay Commissions, etc. the employees who had chosen to remain under SRPF(C) scheme, were extended further opportunities to come over to the pension scheme. In all, 12 such options were given, the latest being the one given

		<p>on the basis of the recommendations of the 4<sup>th</sup> CPC, in terms of which, all CPF/SRPF(C) beneficiaries who were in service on 1.1.1986 were deemed to have come over to the pension scheme on that date unless they specifically opted to continue under the CPF/SRPF(C) Scheme. In effect, the surviving SRPF(C) beneficiaries are, those persons who had specifically chosen to remain under the SRPF(C) scheme.</p> <p>The demand of such SRPF(C) beneficiaries for coming over to the Pension Scheme was considered by the Supreme Court and in their Judgement of 13<sup>th</sup> July, 1990, it was held that the Government's legal obligation in the case of SRPF(C) retirees ended on their retirement and that SRPF(C) beneficiaries had received lump sum amount at the time of their retirement. The Vth &amp; VIth Central Pay Commissions did not recommend grant of another option to CPF/SRPF retirees to switch over to the pension scheme. It may be appreciated that the Ministry of Railways being an administrative Ministry is governed by the orders/instructions issued by the DOP&amp;PW, the nodal department of the Government in such matters and, therefore, cannot take any unilateral decision in the matter.</p>
(viii)	<p><b><u>Payment of enhanced ex-gratia to pre 1986 SRPF(C) beneficiaries:-</u></b></p> <p>In Railway Board's letter No. F(E)III/PN/Ex.Gr./3 dated 15-11-2006 (RBE No.170/2006) it is laid down that the Head of Office or Department, which sanctioned the existing ex-gratia payment authority, shall prepare the revised ex-gratia payment authority at the enhanced rates, as in, Sub-para 1(VII) above suo-motu in lieu of the said existing authority of Rs.600/-. Revised payment authorities have not so far been issued by several Divisions with the result a large number of those beneficiaries are</p>	<p>Details of the cases alongwith the names of the Division who have not issued revised ex-gratia payment authorities in terms of Board's letter No.F(E)III/98/PN1/Ex.Gr./3 dated 15-11-2006 (Copy enclosed) need to be furnished to enable necessary instructions being issued to the concerned Zonal Railway etc.</p>

still being paid ex-gratia at the old rates only. Instructions need, therefore, to be issued immediately by the railway board for implementation of the above mentioned orders within a stipulated period and also ask for submission of compliance reports in this regard from the concerned authorities.	
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