

BANGALORE ALL INDIA CONFERENCE

A MILESTONE

The 2nd Triennial All India conference held in Bangalore city on 21st and 22nd November 2015 was really a milestone in the history of AIBSNLPWA, the largest organisation of Telecom pensioners in India. It commenced in an atmosphere of some uncertainty but ended with great hope and inspiration to all participants. The entire Tamilnadu, especially the Chennai city, was flooded due to incessant rains caused by some depression in Bay of Bengal. More than 155 trains touching Chennai were cancelled by Indian railways. As a result, more than 150 delegates from various circles could not reach Bangalore. Some others reached late. Bangalore too had unusual heavy rains this year which created some unexpected difficulties.

CWC MEETING

Among the CWC members, comrades B N Parmar, R B Rama and H S Prasad had intimated earlier that they could not attend due to illness. Comrades S R Sinha, Chandrika Singh, K S Jat and P C Moitra could not come as trains were cancelled. Comrades K Muthialu, A P Saraswathy, M C Sharma and M Pathak reached late. Following were present:

P S Ramankutty, President
D Gopalakrishnan, Vice President
R Ramachandra Rao, Vice President
J K Tripathy, Vice President
G Natarajan, General Secretary
S Gunasekaran, Treasurer,
K Gururajan, Asst. Treasurer,
P Gangadhara Rao, AGS
N S Sarma, AGS,
M R Das, AGS,
J S Dahya, AGS,
M J Pillay, AGS,
R A Sharma, Org. Secretary
Atma Ram Verma, Org. Secretary.

K S Koteswara Rao, CS, AP
M Govinda Rajan, CS, Ch TD
S K Jain, CS, CGT
D P S Sisodia, CS, NTR
J S Mallik, CS, Haryana
R Changappa, CS, Karnataka
T P George, CS, Kerala
M J Pillay, CS, Maharashtra
B N Behera, CS, Odisha
Gyan Singh, CS, Rajasthan
V Rama Rao, CS, Tamilnadu
Sher Singh, CS, UP West and
Ranjit Kumar Mukherjee, CS, WB.

Despite the inclement weather, the CWC meeting was held in the afternoon of 20th November 2015 as scheduled. The Report presented by General Secretary and the Accounts presented by Treasurer were unanimously approved by the CWC. Following sub committees were constituted for the smooth conduct of the AIC:

Admission:

Com. S Gunasekaran, J S Dahya, M J Pillay and Sampath Kumar

Credential Committee:

V Rama Rao, M Govinda Rajan and Sher Singh

Minutes Committee:

M H Mitkary, R N Pada Nair and M C Sharma

Resolution Committee

K Muthiyalu, D Gopalakrishnan, R A Sharma, K S Koteswara Rao and J K Tripathy.

THE GUESTS

We had invited Shri Mohan Bahadur KC, Vice President-Asia of Trade Union International (Pensioners & Retirees), Com. Ram Saran Wagle, General Secretary of Retired Employees Association of Nepal (REAN) and Com. Lekh Nath Gautam, Treasurer of REAN. Their flight from Kathmandu to New Delhi was delayed and hence they could not catch the connecting flight to Bangalore from Delhi. After waiting for more than three hours in New Delhi airport they managed to get a ticket in another flight in the night of 20th November. They reached Bangalore at 11.30 PM instead of 5.10 PM. The Comrades from Reception Committee though started well in time also could not reach Airport as planned because of an accident in the airport road and due to very heavy rains. Our Guests were made to wait again another three hours in Bangalore Airport. Finally they reached the Lodge around 12.30 night. Their presence in the AIC made it more attractive.



Com. Mohan Bahadur is a versatile personality. He started his career as a teacher and then became auditor. After retirement as Auditor Director he is practicing as a lawyer in Supreme Court of Nepal. He organized the working employees first and then the pensioners of Nepal against all odds. He is the chief advisor to REAN now and connected with various other organizations of senior citizens of Nepal. He was elected as the Vice President for Asia region of TUI (P&R) at Barcelona.

Flag Hoisting

At 9.15 AM the Association flag was unfurled by Com. P S Ramankutty, National President of the Association. The National Flag was unfurled by Com. G Babu, President of Reception Committee. Thereafter National Anthem was sung in chorus by the delegates present.



WELCOME

Com. G Babu, President of Reception Committee welcomed all guests and delegates.



INAUGURATION

Com. Mohan Bahadur KC inaugurated the Conference at 9.30 delivering a written speech

Com. D Balasubramanian, Secretary General of All India Federation of Pensioners' Associations, Chennai spoke mainly on the report of 7th Central Pay Commission presented to the Government on the previous day. The delegates were eager to know the details. [Com. Balasubramanian supported our demand for extension of the CPC report for our pension revision.]

Com. Ram Saran Wagle, GS of REAN (Nepal) delivered a brief greeting speech.

OPEN SESSION

We had rescheduled our programme of the entire All India Conference to suit the convenience of Shri Ananthakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India who happens to be the Member of Parliament from Bangalore city. His office had assured that Shri Ananthkumar would come to the venue at 11 AM to inaugurate the Open Session. But, he could not come due to many other engagements in the city. When his office intimated us that the Minister would definitely come and address our delegates at 'any time' before conclusion of the conference we continued our proceedings without loss of time.



Shri S C Maheshwari, Secretary General of Bharat Pensioners Samaj, New Delhi, one of the oldest organizations of Indian Pensioners, spoke in details about the 7th CPC report. Shri Maheshwari, a retired Engineer of Indian Railways, also supported our demand for extension of fitment formula suggested by the CPC for pension revision of BSNL retirees in future, explained that the minimum pay and minimum pension fixed by 7th CPC were quite unrealistic, unscientific and hence unsatisfactory.

Shri A Gnanasekharan, CCA Karnataka circle greeting the Conference on behalf of the Department of Telecom shared with us some data about the pensioners in Karnataka and other information about the work undertaken by his office.

Shri P Nagaraju, CGMT, BSNL, Karnataka circle in his pleasing speech admitted that he knew very little about the pensioner's problems. As a person to be a pensioner very soon Shri Nagaraju assured that he would take care of pensioners' problems. After his speech Com. Ramankutty pointed that Karnataka Circle is one of the Circles which failed to nominate a nodal officer in Circle Office to ensure proper and prompt processing of pension papers of retiring officials, as instructed by the Directorate of DoT. Immediately, CGMT assured that it would be done soon.

Com. K B Krishna Rao, Secretary of Karnataka Circle P&T Pensioners' Association and another leader who supported us for getting the benefit of CPC fitment formula, greeted the delegates with a short speech.

Thereafter, **Com. G Natarajan**, our General Secretary spoke on the most important issues concerning BSNL retirees and the significance of the AIC.

Finally, **Com. D Gopalakrishnan**, our Vice President and also the Secretary-Organisation of Trade Union International (Pensioners & Retirees) delivered his Key Note address to the Conference. It was a most informative speech befitting to the position of the leader of an international organization depicting the status of pensioners all over the world. He placed facts and figures with authority. The entire House was thrilled by the brilliant delivery of speech by Com. DG.



Mementos to the Guest.

The Reception Committee then presented beautifully designed mementos to all Guests. In reciprocation, the Nepalese leaders presented a beautiful memento to our President too.

Then at 2 PM the Conference was adjourned for Lunch.

SUBJECT COMMITTEE

After the lunch, when the House reassembled, one minute's silence was observed paying homage to departed leaders and great personalities like Com. Chhidu Singh, Om Prakash Gupta, S K Vyas, A P J Abdul Kalam, Nelson Mandela, Justice V R Krishna Iyer etc.

The Subject committee was conducted by a presidium consisting of P S Ramankutty, Smt A P Saraswathy, D Gopalakrishnan, J K Tripathy and R Ramachandra Rao.

Thereafter General Secretary presented the report on activities of the Association since last All India Conference at Jaipur. As it was circulated to all through Patrika No 20, important points only were explained by GS instead of reading the entire report.



Then, the audited accounts for the last three years were presented by Treasurer. Number of clarifications was sought on it. Some comrades suggested changes in the method of writing accounts. After satisfactory clarifications were provided by Treasurer, General Secretary and President the House approved the accounts unanimously at 4.50 PM.

Then, **Com. K Muthiyalu**, All India Organising Secretary spoke on organizational matters to help the participants in the debate to place their views in a better way.

Release of the Book:

Andhra Circle Unit of the Association brought a booklet in Hindi on "clarifications on pension rules". Com. B Dinakar, Circle Treasurer explained in Hindi the salient features of the Book. Com. P S Ramankutty, President released the book.

A FANTASTIC CULTURAL PERFORMANCE

The Telecom Colony Residents' Association's cultural troupe presented a cultural programme for one hour consisting of dance items giving a noble call to maintain the secular fabric of Indian nation and Indian society. This cultural extravaganza was appreciated and enjoyed by the entire audience. Before that, a delegate comrade from Odisha presented a folk song item of Odisha also.

22-11-2015

The Subject Committee resumed its session at 10 AM on 22nd November 2015. Some delegate comrades sang songs of different languages.

In the debate on Report and organizational matters, Comrades K S Koteswara Rao of AP, M R Das of Assam, M Govinda Rajan and T S Vittoban of Chennai TD Circle, N P S Sisodia, R C Malhotra and Santhokh Singh of NTR Circle, J S Dahya of Haryana, K G Deshpande, G B Kittur and Ramaiah of Karnataka, T P George, Smt Annie Preman and R N Pada Nair of Kerala, V S Thakur of MP, R H Mitkary, V G Joshi and Y R Wasu of Maharashtra, B N Behera of Odisha, Atma Ram Verma of Panjab, R A Sharma of Rajasthan, B Arunachalam, S Arunachalam and G R Dharmarajan of Tamilnadu, Mahatma Pathak, M D Saraf and R B S Yadav of UP East, Sher Singh of UP West and Ranjit Kumar Mukherjee of West Bengal participated.

Com. S Radhakrishna, Secretary General of Coordination Committee of Central Government Pensioners Associations, Karnataka who could not attend the Open session addressed the Delegates. He clarified certain aspects of the 7th CPC and expressed his dissatisfaction on some of the recommendations. .

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The House then took up proposed amendments to the Constitution and adopted them with some changes, suggested by the delegates.

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR ARRIVES

At 5 PM, the information reached that Shri Ananthkumar, Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers would be coming. Delegates were excited to hear the news. He came at 5.45 PM. Comrades Gangadhara Rao, G Babu, and R Changappa received him. Com. D Gopalakrishnan presented very effectively 3-4 major issues like 78.2%, future Pension revision, Pension anomaly and allotment a staff quarter to our Association in Delhi, on which we need effective intervention of Shri Ananthkumarji again.



The Minister took the mike and declared that “ I am with You.” The declaration was received by the delegates with great ovation. Shri Ananthkumar said that he was aware of the significance of our demand for 78.2% because he had seen his father (a retired Railway employee) fighting for the rights of pensioners, howsoever small it was. He asked our leaders to reach Delhi on 30th November 2015 and meet him. He would arrange meetings with DoT Secretary, DoE Secretary and Shri Nripendra Mishraji, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister. Thus the conference ended in a very jubilant mood. It was a grand finale.



BR

After the Minister left the House, the Conference elected new set of office bearers unanimously. The list was already published in the Website.

FELICITATION

CHQ honoured some branches for outstanding achievements. Madurai SSA unit was honoured being the largest branch with 1536 members. Bangalore SSA unit was honoured for having the largest number of Life members. Ernakulam SSA unit was felicitated for being the second largest branch with more 1000 life members. West Godavari branch was honoured for having 100 % life membership.

The Reception Committee was honoured for the wonderful work done by it. Similarly, some of the outgoing office-bearers and the members of magazine Committee were also honoured by CHQ.

At 7 PM, the Conference concluded.

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