Revival of Old Pension Scheme & Other Demands
Block to National Level Agitation

- A Brief Report

2017
**Background:**

It is very important to understand Old Pension Scheme and New Pension Scheme. It states that those appointed prior to January 2004 get their post retirement amounts through a pension plan, which defines the benefit type. There is a monthly payment, which is equal to fifty percent of last drawn salary. Minimum payment to retired employees as pension through this old scheme is rupees 3,500. Those above the age of eighty get an additional pension in the range of twenty and a 100% of basic pensions.

Besides there is also dearness relief, based on All India Price Index for Consumers. Presently this is sixty-five percent of individual pensions. Again, there is a medical allowance fixed, which deals with expenditure related to health care. Much of this however does not remain under the NPS. These are two completely different pension systems.

The basic difference between the old and the new scheme is that while the earlier system was defined the new one is totally based on investment returns along with accumulations until retirement age, annuity type and its levels.

In the above mentioned context and the impact of new pension scheme, General Council members of AIP TF reflected upon the problems and challenges for teachers and since 2006 onwards are protesting against the Scheme. On many occasions and different platforms, the Leaders of AIP TF have raised their voice and protested against the New Pension Scheme.

**Strategy and Action Plan:**

To raise the voice throughout the country, AIP TF called for a meeting of its General Council, which is a supreme decision-making body of the Federation, at Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh on 30th December 2016.

In this meeting it was decided to protest against these decisions of the Government throughout the country along with State Employees Association(s), postal union, railways’ employees union and other teachers and like-minded unions in different states.
To chalk out a clear blueprint for the nation-wide agitation, an “Action Committee” was constituted with the following members:

- Sh. Ram Pal Singh, President, AIPTF
- Smt. Sulbha Donde (Maharashtra) Sr. Vice-President, AIPTF
- Dr. Ram Chandra Dabas (Delhi), Sr. Vice-President, AIPTF
- Sh. Kamala Kanta Tripathy, Secretary General, AIPTF
- Sh. Mahendra Prasad Shahi (Bihar), Dy. Secretary General, AIPTF
- Sh. N. Rengarajan (Tamil Nadu) Dy. Secretary General, AIPTF
- Sh. Jibon Borah (Assam) Organising Secretary, AIPTF
- Sh. Sanjay Mishra (Uttar Pradesh), Organising Secretary, AIPTF
- Sh. Vinod Thakran (Haryana), President, RPSH, Haryana

Members of the Action Committee met on 30th January 2017 at Shikshak Bhavan, New Delhi to discuss and finalise the plan of Action for Dharna from the block level to national level.

It was also agreed upon those five states where elections are being held in the month of February and March 2017, a letter should be sent to include these demands in the election manifestoes of different political parties.

It was also decided that the state affiliates will finish meeting with other organisations/unions before 2nd April 2017 and AIPTF will also complete its background work before we write letters and decide our action plan.

Action Committee decided that before 30th March 2017, the AIPTF will write letters to all the state affiliates requesting them to meet the MPs and MLAs in their areas and give them a copy of the Memorandum and also requesting them to raise the demands in Assembly/Parliament. Committee agreed on the following dates for agitation on different levels:

- **25th April 2017** Block level in all state affiliates throughout the country
- **5th August 2017** District Level Rallies at district Headquarters
- **5th September 2017** State Level Dharna in State Capital
- **5th October 2017** National level Dharna at New Delhi, Jantar Mantar

All our state affiliates united on this demand and others which are mentioned below and acted on the request of AIPTF:
New Pension Scheme should be stopped for teachers and other state employees with immediate effect and revive the old pension scheme.

Anomalies of the Six Central Pay Commission should be removed and necessary amendments should be made in the recommendations of the Seventh Pay Commission’s recommendations.

Implementing the recommendations of the Seventh Central Pay Commission in all the states of India with effect from 1\textsuperscript{st} January 2016 for all the categories of the teachers including para teachers (Shiksha Mitra) should be given “Equal Pay for Equal Work” as per the directives of the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India.

Setting up a “National Commission for Elementary Education” to deal with the problems and issues related to education and teachers.

\textbf{Some of the glimpses of Dharna at various level are –}

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<th>Block Level</th>
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<th>National Level</th>
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Block Level Dharna in some of our state affiliates on 25\textsuperscript{th} April 2017. The states submitted the Memorandum to the MLAs/MPs in their respective constituency to raise the questions in the Assembly/Parliament. A copy of the draft Memorandum is enclosed here.
On 5th August 2017, in the next phase of agitation as per the plan, nearly 400 district headquarters in the affiliated states witnessed a stream of teachers protesting against the New Pension scheme and pressurising the governments to revive the old-pension scheme.

District Level Agitation in a Nutshell
State Level Agitation:

All the state capitals on 5th September 2017 had a successful dharna and sufficient media coverage was given to our demands. Gender perspective was also considered by AIPTF to invite more and more women in the dharna.
National Level

Moving forward on pension issues creates some important challenges for the unions. It is difficult to stem the tide on undesirable pension reforms and this is an issue that needs to be addressed in terms of the well-being of the retired teaching personnel. Reflecting on the various aspects and observing the response from the affiliates on the three phases of dharna, approximately 10,000 teachers gathered at the Parliament under the banner of All India Primary Teachers' Federation. The gathering of teachers was addressed by leaders of teachers from state affiliates and Sh. P.C. Chacko, Former Member of Parliament, Mr. Chet Narayn Singh, MLC (Uttar Pradesh), Mr. Raj Bahadur Singh Chandel, MLC (Uttar Pradesh and representative/s of the other employees’ organisations especially Mr. Prem Kumar from Indian Public Service Employee Federation who echoed the same opinion on behalf of his union. Three national teachers’ organisations namely All India Federation of Teachers’ Organisations, All India Federation of Educational Associations and All India Secondary Teachers' Federation also extended their support and addressed the gathering and expressed the solidarity to our demands. Later a memorandum was submitted to the President, Prime Minister and Education Minister of India. (A copy is enclosed).

A way Forward: The submission of Memorandum with clearly indicating our stand to the government, the Federation will wait for the response in the stipulated time. If there is no indication, we will continue our struggle in all the states and grassroots level and will keep the agitation till the next general elections and re-plan our strategies to pressurise the government.
पुरानी पेशन योजना को तुरंत बहाल किया जाए।

छठे वेतन आयोग की अनुशंसाओं की विसंगतियों को दूर करके सातवें वेतन आयोग की अनुशंसाओं को देश के सभी राज्यों में सभी प्रकार के शिक्षकों (पीएच दीएस सहित) के लिए (उच्चतम न्यायलय के ‘समान कार्य के लिए समान वेतन’ सिद्धांत के अनुसार) 1 जनवरी 2016 से लागू किया जाए। यह शिक्षा एवं शिक्षकों की समस्याओं के निराकरण के लिए “प्रारंभिक शिक्षा आयोग” का गठन किया जाए।

25 अप्रेल 2017
देश के समस्त विकास खण्डो में धरना/प्रदर्शन मुख्यमंत्री/राज्यपाल को जापन प्रेषित करना

05 अगस्त 2017
देश के समस्त जनपदों के जिला मुख्यालय पर धरना तथा मुख्यमंत्री/राज्यपाल/धार्माने/राष्ट्रपति को जिला अधिकारी द्वारा प्रमाण है झापन प्रेषित करना

05 सितंबर 2017
“शिक्षक दिवस” के अवसर पर अपनी माँगों के समर्थन में केंद्र/राज्य सरकारों का ध्यान आकृष्ट करने के लिए धरना/धार्माने झापन प्रेषित करना

05 अक्टूबर 2017
“विश्व शिक्षक दिवस” पर भारत सरकार का ध्यान आकृष्ट करने हेतु संघ के परमाणुकर्मियों द्वारा जनता-मन्त्र पर धरना एवं माननीय राष्ट्रपति व प्रधानमंत्री को झापन
All India Primary Teachers' Federation
and
Affiliated State Unions

Programme of Agitation

Our Main Demands

- Restoration of Old Pension Scheme Immediately.
- Removing the anomalies of recommendations of VIth Central Pay Commission and implementation of VIth pay Commission throughout the country for all categories of teachers inclusive of para teachers as per the “Equal Pay for Equal Work” directive of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India w.e.f 1 January 2016.
- Setting up a “National Commission for Elementary Education” for grievances' redressal of teachers of India.

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25th April 2017
Dhama/Protest at all Blocks throughout India and submission of Memorandum to State Chief Minister/Governor

5th August 2017
Dhama/Protest at all District Headquarters throughout the country and submission of Memorandum to Chief Minister/Governor/Prime Minister/President through District Magistrate

5th September 2017
Dhama and Submission of Memorandum to Chief Minister/Governor/Prime Minister/President to draw attention of Central/State governments in favour of our demands on Teachers' Day

5th October 2017
Dhama at Jantar Mantar by the Office-Bearers of AIPTF to draw attention of the Government of India in favour of our demands on World Teachers' Day