

No. PC PN/7994/ 431/B/D(Pen/Sers)/06
Government of India
Deptt of Ex-Servicemen Welfare,
Ministry of Defence

New Delhi, dated the 8th March, 2006.

To,

The Chief of the Army Staff,
The Chief of the Naval Staff,
The Chief of the Air Staff,

Subject: Personal identification of pensioners/family pensioners settled abroad at the time of drawal of first payment of pension/family pension.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the rules for drawal of family pension as contained in Pension Payment Instructions (PPI), 1973 issued by the PCDA(P), Allahabad with the approval of the CGDA, New Delhi. The family pension as notified jointly in the Pension Payment Order (PPO) issued in respect of the retired pensioners commences on production of death certificate. The Pension Disbursing Officer identifies the family pensioner in person before authorizing the release of family pension. The provisions mentioned above are applicable to family pensioners irrespective of their resident status either in India or outside.

2. As per the provisions contained in para 6(i) to (x) of PPI which draws its authority from the Central Treasury Rules, the Pension Disbursing Officer has been made primarily responsible for personal identification of the pensioner/family pensioner before making payment – both at the time of first payment and thereafter every year for continuance of pension. The only exception to the above rule is as follows :-

(a) **For pensioners resident in India.** As per para 8(B) of the PPI, pensioners resident in India and who have appointed an agent for drawal of pension are exempted from personal identification by the Pension Disbursing Agency (PDA) both at the time of first drawal of pension as also from annual identification. The same, however, is subject to appointment and drawal of pension through an authorised agent who indemnifies in favour of the Government for any over payment on account of pension.

(b) **For pensioners resident outside India.** The provisions for payment of pensioners in respect of NRI pensioners are governed by para 13.3 of PPI who are authorised to draw pensions through an agent appointed in India by opening an NRI account in any of the authorised Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in India. The NRI pensioners are exempt from annual identification on production of life certificate issued by the Indian Consulate/Mission abroad.

3. Even though para 13.3 of PPI enables the NRI pensioners to prefer first claim after going abroad alongwith the life certificate issued by Indian Embassy/Mission, no provision exists which exempt the NRI pensioners from

personal identification at the time of first drawal of pension. The provisions are similarly silent on whether family pensioners resident abroad are exempt from personal appearance before the PDA in the event of death of the spouse resident abroad at the time of first drawal of family pension.

4. It has, therefore, been decided that the NRI pensioners/family pensioners who are settled abroad may be exempted from personal appearance in the concerned PDAs in India at the time of first drawal of pension/family pension provided the Indian Embassy/Mission abroad issue a certificate to the effect that the pensioners/family pensioners has been identified by them on his/her personal appearance on (date).....with reference to documents viz (i) Marriage Certificate, (ii) Pass-port, (iii) Pension Payment Order (PPO).

5. The relevant provisions contained in PPI will be amended by PCDA(P), Allahabad in due course.

6. This issues with the concurrence of Finance Division of this Ministry vide their U.O. No. 144/Fin/P dated 7.3.2006.

Yours faithfully,



(L.K. Haldar)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

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