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Veteran Sailors' Forum
Directorate of Ex-Servicemen Affairs
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DX/VSF/47/GBM/DELHI CHARTER/15 18 Aug 15

**MINUTES OF THE 7th GENERAL BODY MEETING OF VETERAN SAILORS'
FORUM (VSF) NORTH ZONE HELD AT VARUNIKA AUDITORIUM,
CHANAKYAPURI ON 12 JUL 15**

1. The General Body Meeting (GBM) of the VSF Delhi Charter was conducted from 1000 h to 1500 h on 12 Jul 14 in Varunika Auditorium, Nau Sena Baugh 1, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. The GBM was chaired by Cmde Ajay Saxena, President, VSF Delhi Charter.

2. Approximately 200 ESMs and 20 veernaris were present during the AGM. A folder containing brochures and important information on VSF, INBA, ECHS etc., was distributed to all members on their arrival. Three booths with PC were set up at the reception to check the membership of the personnel arriving and facilitate new on-the-spot membership for the personnel.

3. Following officials were present in the GBM:-

(a) **Invitees.**

- | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|
| (i) | Surg Capt Ilankumaran | - | DMS(HS) |
| (ii) | Capt DR Sharma (Retd) | - | MS INCCB |
| (iii) | Capt SS Mann | - | Director, ECHS |
| (iv) | Capt JK Chaudhary | - | CRSO(N) |
| (v) | Lt Cdr Sandip Murarka | - | Secretary, INBA |
| (vi) | Shri Subodh Kaushik | - | GM, Punjab National Bank |

(b) **Representatives of VSF Chapters.**

- | | | | |
|------|--------------------|---|---|
| (i) | Cdr George Abraham | - | Secretary, VSF Delhi Charter |
| (ii) | Dharam Pal MCPO I | - | Representative, VSF
Dehradun Charter |

- | | | | |
|-------|---------------------------|---|---|
| (iii) | AK Singh POELP | - | Representative, VSF Jabalpur Charter |
| (iv) | Shivraj Singh, Ex-SCPO | - | Coordinator, VSF Associate Charter, Ghaziabad |
| (v) | Shivraj Singh, Ex-CPOWTR- | | VSF Coordinator, NOIDA |
| (vi) | P S Shekhawat, Ex-CHMECH- | | Poorv Nau Sainik Sanstha, Rajasthan |
| (vii) | Dr BK Nautiyal, Ex-POMA | - | Poorv Nau Sainik Kalyan Samiti, Dehradun |

Item I – Opening Remarks by President

4. At the outset, President welcomed outstation Regional Chapter representatives, special invitees, Veernaris and VSF members of VSF Delhi Command Charter.

5. He emphasised the commitment of Navy and VSF towards the welfare of ex-servicemen and widows. Citing various initiatives such as relook into Reservist Pension, Widows Hostel, Single ESM I-card, proposal of common age relaxation for ESM for recruitment to Group A and B posts in Central Govt, Old Age Home, Felicitation of Octogenarian veterans, etc, he assured the members that Navy is committed to the welfare of veterans and veernaris. He requested the members to disseminate this message to the veterans not present in the AGM.

6. The President gratefully acknowledged the hard work and the vision of the veterans in shaping the Navy of today. He also updated the veterans on the major inductions and future plans of the Navy. Highlighting the Navy's commitment to the man behind the machine, he informed the members that 2015-16 has been declared as the "Year of Sailors" and "Year of School". He also informed the General Body of the initiatives in the fields of Resettlement of ESMs, Aadhaar registration, Jeevan Pramaan scheme, signing of MoU with UIDAI for Aadhaar registration camps, etc.

7. The President also highlighted that VSF was set up by Navy as a platform for interacting with its veterans. Therefore, he requested the members to understand this set up and respect the organisation in the correct perspective. He also requested members to forward any suggestions and proposals to the office bearers so that necessary actions can be initiated in time and do not have to wait for the next AGM. He also conveyed the commitment of the VSF and Navy to respond to the queries including the calls made on the Toll Free Helpline.

8. He finally requested the members to actively participate and provide their much needed inputs during the deliberations on the scheduled agenda points and emphasised that additional points would be taken up only after discussing the agenda.

Item II – Secretary's Report

9. The secretary apprised the AGM of the various aspects of VSF Delhi Command Charter for the period of 27 Jul 14 to 12 Jul 15 through a presentation covering the following aspects:-

- (a) Introduction of VSF, Aims and Objectives of the Forum.
- (b) Details of Charters and membership strength.
- (c) Activities undertaken by VSF Delhi Command Chapter.
- (d) Status of various initiatives undertaken by VSF Delhi Command Chapter.

10. Secretary also informed the members that 7th VSF GCM / AGM is scheduled on 30 Aug 15 at Vishakhapatnam and requested them to forward any proposed agenda points by 30 Jul 15.

Item III – Confirmation of Minutes of 6th AGM

11. The Secretary apprised the AGM of the actions taken on decision made during the 6th AGM and informed the AGM that all decisions are implemented. The AGM confirmed the minutes of the 6th AGM. Detailed status of the decisions of 6th AGM are placed at **Appendix A**.

Item IV – Presentation on Key Issues

12. Following presentations were made for the benefit of the members:-

- (a) Progress made in ECHS - Director, ECHS.
- (b) New policies on Pension issues - Deputy Director,
Dte of Pay and Allowances
- (c) Pension Disbursal by Banks - Mr Subodh Kaushik, GM,PNB
- (d) INBA Welfare Schemes - Secy, INBA

Item IV to XXXIII- Discussion on Agenda Points

13. The AGM considered various agenda points received from members, which were listed as Item IV to Item XXXII. Additional points raised by members were discussed at Item XXXIII.

14. Details of discussions and decisions on respective agenda points are placed at **Appendix 'B'**.

Item V – Vote of Thanks

15. The AGM ended with a vote of thanks by Secretary, VSF Delhi Command Chapter on behalf of the President. There being no further points, the meeting was adjourned with the permission of the Chair and all the members were requested to proceed for lunch.

16. These minutes have the approval of President, VSF Delhi Command Chapter.



(George Abraham)
Commander
JDESA (VSF) and Secretary
VSF Delhi Command Chapter

Distribution: - Normal.

UPDATE ON ACTIONABLE AGENDA POINTS OF THE 6TH AGM

Item I - Canteen Smart Cards (Jabalpur Regional Charter)

1. **Point.** The purchasing limit of CSD smart card needs to be increased keeping in line with rising inflation and growing purchasing power in general.
2. **Decision.** VSF Delhi was directed to review the requirement to take up case with IHQ MOD (Army) / DDG CS through INCCB after implementation of 7th CPC and update the forum.
3. **Status.** The monetary limits on Canteen Smart Cards have been enhanced with effect from 01 Jun 15. **Point closed.**

Item II - Lack of Medicines in ECHS Polyclinics (Dehradun and Jabalpur Regional Charters)

4. **Issue.** Costly medicines are not available at ECHS and patients are referred to Military Hospitals for medicines, which takes 2-3 months. Local purchase also take long duration, which not only requires the patients to make repeated visits to polyclinics but also remain without medicine for this period.
5. **Decision.** VSF Delhi was directed to update the forum on progress of the case for outsourcing of pharmacy services in ECHS Polyclinics.
6. **Status.** Pharmacy outsourcing has been started in two locations as pilot projects (Thiruvananthapuram and Chandimandir). VSF Delhi will continue to disseminate progress on the matter. **Point closed.**

Item III - Vacancies for Group C Posts in Central Govt(Jabalpur Regional Charter)

7. **Issue.** Increasing vacancies for Group C for ex-servicemen may be taken up with Central Government for benefit of all ex-servicemen.
8. **Decision.** VSF Delhi was directed to liaise with DGR and update the forum on progress of the issue.
9. **Status.** The proposal from DGR is still under the consideration of Government. Final decision will be disseminated to the members. **Point closed.**

Item V - Token System in Military Hospitals (Dehradun Charter)

10. **Issue**. The system of auto generated centralised token number from reception in Military Hospital for the patient needs to be instituted for various OPDs to avoid delays and to ensure transparency.

11. **Decision**. VSF Delhi was directed to obtain details of the existing system of registration at Base Hospital and thereafter take up case with DGMS (Navy).

12. **Status**. The existing patient registration system at Base Hospital Delhi Cantt was examined in consultation with DGMS (Navy), which revealed that a patient first registers in an initial OPD, and in case of referral to another OPD, needs to reregister in the referral OPD. In the absence of this system, patients who are already registered with an OPD before arrival of the patients who were referred from other OPDs will be adversely affected. Therefore, it is necessary to maintain status quo. The same was discussed further and no counter views were projected. **Point closed**.

Item VI - Exemption from Toll Tax (Sukhwinder Singh, Ex-Hon S/LT and Satish Kumar Yadav, Ex-POELP)

13. **Issue**. Presently, only serving personnel are exempted from Toll Tax subject to extant regulation. It would benefit all veterans if they are exempted from payment of Toll Tax.

14. **Decision**. VSF Delhi was directed to take up a case with NHA to ascertain facts on ground regarding exemption of toll tax for ESM. If required to take up case for exemption, then it would be taken up as a tri-service issue through HQ IDS.

15. **Status**. The issue was taken up with NHA and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. Both agencies clarified that there is no provision for exemption of ESM from Toll Tax. Therefore, the issue was taken up with KSB for taking up with MOD/DESW and in addition, a separate proposal was also forwarded as a tri-service proposal for consideration of Principal Personal Officers Committee (PPOC). VSF Delhi to monitor progress and disseminate final decision to the Forum. **Point to be monitored**.

Item VII - Interaction with ESM by ZSB (SK Saxena Ex-MCAA-II)

25. **Issue**. Interaction with ESM by the Zilla Sainik Board (ZSB) on a quarterly or half yearly basis to bring forward/ resolve pending issues to the District Sainik Welfare Officer in order to initiate further action by the concerned civil authority.

26. **Decision**. VSF Delhi was directed to take up a case with KSB to familiarise all ZSB Staff on Naval ranks and trades as also to institutionalise the procedure of disseminating information on job opportunities and facilities offered by ZSBs on a common platform.

27. **Status.** A comprehensive list of naval ranks was forwarded to KSB for dissemination to the RSBs and ZSBs with a request to disseminate the same to all ZSBs and RSBs. **Point closed.**

Item X - Ex-Servicemen Identity Card (Satish Yadav, EX-POELP)

28. **Issue.** There must be a provision of issuing of identity card for ESM by CABS initially. Thereafter, the card could be reissued due to wear and tear by DESA or ZSB.

29. **Decision.** VSF Delhi was directed to monitor the proposal for single ESM Card for officers and follow up action for VSF members in accordance with the decision on I-card for officers.

30. **Status.** Since the ESM card issued by KSB is the only authorised document for availing govt benefits for ESMs, IHQ MOD(Navy) had decided not to issue Identity Card for veterans. Notwithstanding, a separate case for a single Identity card for all retired personnel which will be used for all services such as ECHS, CSD Canteen, and ESM I-card issued by ZSB, is under examination and will be forwarded to PPOC for its approval. VSF Delhi will update the Forum on the progress of the case. **Point to be retained.**

Item XI - Education Allowance for JCOs (Ghaziabad Associate Charter)

31. **Issue.** NCO's who have served 8 years in his present rank as PO/equivalent get Grade Pay of 4200/-, which is same as that of JCOs, and hence the financial constraints of a JCO are same as that of NCOs. However, Education Allowance is provided only to NCO's. Therefore, Education Allowance should be provided to all ranks of PBOR and not only to NCO's.

32. **Decision.** VSF Delhi was directed to take up the case with KSB for considering inclusion of JCOs towards award of Education Allowance to their wards. KSB may also be apprised separately on the inordinate delay experienced by ESMs in processing of their requests / issues.

33. **Status.** Both issues were taken up with KSB. Executive Committee of KSB has decided that status quo be maintained i.e., limit the education grant to Havildar and below, due to availability of limited funds. **Point closed.**

Item XV - Action Delay on Official Matters in CABS (Ghaziabad Associate Charter)

34. **Issue.** In some cases a very prolonged time is consumed to initiate action on official matters. For instance, when a case comes for change of home address in ESM Discharge Book, it takes approximately 03 months to complete the action in GB section.

35. **Decision.** VSF Delhi was directed to sensitise CABS/NAVPEN for early response to query from ESMs.

36. **Decision.** Issue was conveyed to NAVPEN vide DESA letter DX/VSF/47/GBM/Delhi/14 dated 29 Aug 14. **Point closed.**

Item XVI - Upkeep of Family Morale of VSF Members (Ghaziabad Associate Charter)

37. **Issue.** The families of VSF members should also have an occasion to interact under the aegis of VSF. To keep up their morale and feel more involved, it is advisable to have occasional combined activities like get together, cultural program or site visit of some historical places in Delhi area.

38. **Decision.** It was decided that all regional / associate charters to undertake such events and inform VSF Delhi for according publicity.

39. **Status.** Other than VSF Jabalpur, no Chapter organised any events. **Point closed.**

Item XIX - Separate Counter for Honorary Commission Officers

40. **Issue.** There should be separate counter for Honorary Commission Officers in Canteen.

41. **Decision.** VSF Delhi Charter to take up a case with INS India to examine feasibility of a separate counter for Honorary Commission Officers at INS India Canteen.

42. **Status.** The issue was taken up with INS India. It was indicated that due to space constraints, separate counter for Honorary Commission Officers cannot be provided at this point in time. **Point closed.**

MINUTES OF DISCUSSIONS ON NEW AGENDA POINTS

Item V - Grade Pay of Rs 3400/- (Surya Narayan Pandey, Ex-SWA-II, No. 51469A)

1. **Issue.** Grade Pay of Rs 3400/- exists only in Navy. This discriminates, with Army, Air Force & with Central Govt. Employs, etc., as there is no Grade Pay of Rs. 3400/- in pay band for them. It is requested that the point may be taken up with the appropriate authority and 7th Central Pay Commission.

2. **Discussions.** Proposal pertains to ERA-3 equivalent but below Chief ERA. This Grade Pay does not exist in Army and Air Force since there are no equivalent of Artificers in these Services. The General Body was informed that Pay Commission Cell (Navy) or PCC(N) has included a proposal in Joint Service Memorandum (JSM) to upgrade Pay of Artificers from Rs. 3400/- to Rs. 4400/- in the pre revised scale of the 6th CPC prior transiting to 7th CPC. The Chair directed Secy VSF Delhi to update the Forum on the decision of the 7th CPC.

3. **Decision.** VSF Delhi to update the forum on decision of 7th CPC. Point to be retained for review in the next AGM.

Action: VSF Delhi

Item VI - Social Adaptability Course in Resettlement Program (Daya Sagar, Ex-POR(TEL), No. 117755A)

4. **Issue.** Social adaptability course should be provided as a resettlement program as the work culture and methodology used by civilians is very different and difficult to cope up with. So it is requested that sailors should be trained to work in civil atmosphere.

5. **Discussions.** The Chair highlighted the various steps initiated by the Navy to prepare the individuals for retirement. The process starts with promulgation of release serial, undergoing PRC and finally assembling at Release Centre for over 4 weeks where daily lectures, interaction with civilian firms, etc., are held. It was highlighted that the personnel could use these opportunities offered by the Navy. Should there be further need, then the case would be taken up with DGR for inclusion of such a course. The General Body accepted this aspect and decided to close the point.

6. **Decision.** Point be closed.

Action: All concerned

Item VII - Posting at Home Town in Civil Employment (Daya Sagar Ex-POR(TEL), No. 117755A)

7. **Issue.** Most of the Ex-serviceman leave Armed Forces to meet their family commitments and social responsibilities. So it is requested that they may preferably be given appointment in home town during civil employment, if vacancy exists.

8. **Discussions.** The General Body was informed that the point was forwarded to DGR and their response is awaited.

9. It was also highlighted that the proposal may not benefit most ESMs since the over-riding factor was the location / presence of the employers at locations suiting the ESMs' home town. Since employers have limited pan-India presence, particular choice of locations may not include the home town of ESM on most occasions. Therefore, it was suggested that ESMs should be flexible to seek employment in locations closer to home town and not constrained to hometown only. This would be a more beneficial option, which was accepted by the General Body.

10. **Decision.** Point be closed. **Action:** All concerned

Item VIII - Uniformity in Pay Protection of ESM by all Departments (Daya Sagar Ex-POR(TEL), No. 117755A)

11. **Issue.** Due to absence of clear policy for Pay Fixation for ex-servicemen, all govt departments do not fix the pay of Ex-serviceman following same methodology. It is requested that clear instructions for fixing pay uniformly by all departments with illustrations/examples should be sent to all departments to avoid ambiguity on the subject.

12. **Discussions.** PDESA informed the General Body that examination of applications regarding incorrect pay fixation (at Currency Printing Press Nasik, HAL Bangalore, Bharat Dynamics Limited Hyderabad and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited Secunderabad) indicated that the PSUs, Public Sector Banks, DPSUs, Central Public Sector Enterprises, etc., have sufficient autonomy in HR matters and therefore have undertaken pay fixation for their employees as per their organisation / Ministry rules / regulations. Accordingly, all such cases have been taken up with MOD/JS(ES) and Dept of Public Enterprises for suitable directives.

13. The General Body was also informed that, taking cognisance of similar applications, DGR in the process of taking up a case with DOP&T to issue directives to concerned Ministries to bring all such bodies on same grid with regard to the issue of Pay Fixation of ESMs on reemployment.

14. A few members highlighted their personal issues related to Pay Fixation by their present employers.

15. The Chair advised the members to forward their personal experiences to DESA for necessary follow up action by the Directorate. Since necessary action has

been initiated by DGR and that the issue is under close monitor, the Chair directed that the point be closed.

16. **Decision.** Point be closed. **Action:** All concerned

Item IX - Reservation for Higher Post (Daya Sagar Ex-POR(TEL), No. 117755A

17. **Issue.** After leaving the Armed Forces, ex-servicemen join the first available job due to job insecurity. To be able to avail the best job, it is requested that benefit of reservation should still be available after availing the first job at a lower post.

18. **Discussions.** Secy VSF Delhi informed the General Body that DOP&T, vide their OM 36034/1/2014-Estt(Res.) dated 14 Aug 14, had clarified that ESMs are allowed to avail ESM reservation quota at multiple jobs, provided he/she declares the details of the govt jobs for which he/she has previously submitted applications to the first employer. This directive is applicable to all posts, irrespective of relative seniority. Since the provision is already incorporated by govt, General Body accepted that no further action was warranted.

19. **Decision.** Point be closed. **Action:** All concerned

Item X - Reservations for ESM for Defence Contracts in Cantonment Area (VSF Jabalpur Charter)

20. **Issue.** Jabalpur Cantonment Board does not accord priority to ESMs for awarding of Defence Contracts such as arboriculture, conservancy services, security services, general provision stores etc., within Cantonment areas. However, such provisions exist in naval areas at Colaba, Visakhapatnam, Katari Bagh etc.

21. **Discussions.** The General Body was informed about the general procedure adopted in the Navy wherein additional points are awarded to ESMs for allotment of shops in naval markets, but such priority are not extended to major contracts such as conservancy, security services, etc. It was also highlighted that current govt orders only cater for job reservation for ESMs in recruitment into govt jobs, but does not provide reservation / priority for ESMs in award of defence contracts. It was also brought to the notice of the General Body that the govt has initiated steps to create equal opportunity for DPSUs / PSUs and the private firms for award of defence contracts. It was also brought out that VSF Jabalpur has been advised to take up the matter first with Jabalpur Cantonment Board.

22. **Decision.** VSF Jabalpur to take up case with Jabalpur Cantonment Board and intimate response.

Action: All concerned

Item XI - Reservation in Promotions at Government Establishments (VSF Jabalpur Charter)

23. **Issue.** ESM who are selected to various Govt establishments post retirement are at an inherent disadvantage regarding promotions due to their age of joining.

Therefore, provision for reservation for ESM in promotions be taken up with government.

24. **Discussions.** It was brought to the notice of the General Body that provisions for reservation in promotion posts exist only for SC/ST candidates, which are based on acts passed by the Parliament. The same notwithstanding, the General Body requested Secy to initiate a case with DGR seeking reservation for ESM in promotion posts.

25. **Decision.** Secy VSF Delhi to take up a case with DGR seeking reservation for ESMs in promotion posts. Point to be retained.

Action: VSF Delhi

Item XII - Canteen facility at Unnao (Surendra Kumar, Ex-POR(TEL))

26. **Issue.** There is no canteen extension counter in the Unnao district. ESM from this District have to go to the nearby district Kanpur to avail canteen facility. It is requested that an extension counter may be opened at Unnao.

27. **Discussions.** MS INCCB brought to the notice of General Body that no Naval units / URC exists near Unnao and therefore the feasibility of opening of an extension counter by the Navy does not exist. He also informed the members that Command HQs are the competent Authority for opening a URC/Extension Counter as per Army Order 19/2003. He therefore advised members to approach respective Zila Sainik Board/ nearest station HQs for necessary action.

28. Based on the discussions it emerged that ZSB Unnao needs to be addressed to take up the issue on behalf of the members as they would have the details of number of ESMs registered with them, which is an important consideration for opening new canteen outlet.

29. **Decision.** VSF Delhi to forward the request for opening a canteen counter to ZSB Unnao for taking up the case in turn with the concerned authorities. Point to be retained.

Action: VSF Delhi

Item XIII - Permission to ESM for Availing Canteen Facility at Nausena Bagh-III. (Rati Ram Ex-MCPOWTR-II (Hon Sub Lt) No. 143090F)

30. **Issue.** Families staying at Palam are not allowed to avail canteen facilities at NSB-III. The canteen facilities may be extended to ESM.

31. **Discussions.** The General Body was appraised that the issue has been discussed earlier including the last AGM, wherein INS India had clarified that Canteen Extension Counters at NSB-III cannot cater for large number of ESMs due to restrictions in storage facility, shortages in staff and other administrative constraints and therefore status quo was being maintained.

32. Members highlighted that ESMs were allowed to avail the canteen facilities at NSB III till three years ago but the ESMs are now not allowed to enter NSB III and their children are also not allowed to use the parks. It was also brought out that more than 500 naval ESMs staying in Palam area are not entertained favourably by canteens of Army and Air Force because veterans from Army and Air Force are not allowed to use canteen in NSB III. Rati Ram MCPO WTR II Hon SLt proposed that allotting time slots for ESMs would be a viable option and this will allow the ladies staying in Palam area to avail canteen facilities. The General Body decided to consider this proposal and the Chair directed Secy to forward the same for examination by INS India.

33. **Decision.** VSF Delhi to take up the proposal with INS India to consider allotting time slots at Canteen Extension Counters at NSB III on a few days for naval ESMs only, which would greatly benefit the veterans staying in Palam area.

Action: VSF Delhi

Item XIV - Death Grant from Canteen (Poorva Nausainik Kalyan Samiti, Alwar)

34. **Issue.** A grant of Rs. 5000/- is given through the canteen to the Army pensioners on their death and the same could be extended to Naval Pensioners also.

35. **Discussions.** MS INCCB informed the General Body that Army Regimental Centres provide Rs 5,000/- as Death Grant from Regimental Funds and not from Canteen funds. Secy INBA brought out that INBA provides Death Grant of Rs 25,000/- to pensioners for meeting expenditure related to funeral and other aspects. The General Body therefore agreed that there was no need to further pursue the point.

36. **Decision.** The point was closed. **Action:** All concerned

Item XV - Purchase of Car from Canteen (Poorva Nausainik Kalyan Samiti, Alwar)

37. **Issue.** Present procedure for purchase of car through canteen is very difficult for sailors/ retired naval pensioners. It needs to be made easier so that retired pensioners can comfortably purchase car for their own use.

38. **Discussions.** MS INCCB explained the existing procedure for purchase of car through CSD and the need to put some checks and balances in adopting the existing system. He also highlighted that the procedure is regularly reviewed. He also informed that, the case has been forwarded to DDG(CS) (Nodal Directorate for Canteen Facilities). *(The procedure was amended w.e.f 13 Jul 15 wherein the sanction for purchase of car through CSD is approved by CSD Depots)*

39. **Decision.** Point be closed. **Action:** All concerned

Item XVI - Dental Treatment (SN Singh, Ex-SCPO, No. 166494-Y)

40. **Issue.** ECHS should include the treatment of teeth for cap of teeth and tooth implants, because they are related to health of the individual.

41. **Discussions.** Director, ECHS (Navy) informed the General Body that as per the present ECHS policy for dental treatment, only dentures if advised by Dental officer at ECHS Polyclinic or Service Dental Officer are permitted. A particular type of partial/complete denture will be permitted on one time basis for each member/dependent of the scheme as per CGHS rates. He also informed the General Body that a fresh proposal for inclusion of tooth cap and tooth implants has been forwarded to ECHS Central Organisation for consideration. The Chair directed the Secy to retain the point and update the Forum during the next AGM.

42. **Decision.** VSF Delhi to update the forum on final decision of ECHS Central Organisation. Point to be retained

Action: VSF Delhi

Item XVII–Cost of ECHS Smart Card (Shiv Raj Singh, Ex-CHWTR Ghaziabad Associate Charter)

43. **Issue.** All ESM Pension holders are made lifetime members of ECHS Scheme after making payment of one time contribution based on their un-computed basic monthly pension and the cost of each smart card is paid by the ESM well in advance. On fair, wear and tear of card or change of any policy matter, the member has to again pay the cost of new card for no fault of the card holder. Since the scheme is being financed by the Govt. of India, the cost of the card should also be borne by the Govt.

44. **Discussions.** Director, ECHS(Navy) informed the General Body that as per govt regulations, cost of up-gradation/change in ECHS Smart Card is not borne by the Govt and the ESM has to pay Rs 135/- for each card. He also advised members to handle ECHS Smart card with care like a Bank ATM, and should be kept away from heat/moisture/dust to avoid damage, and ensure its safe custody. The General Body accepted the clarification of Director ECHS(Navy).

45. **Decision.** Point be closed.

Action: All concerned

Item XVIII - Issue of Medicines at ECHS Polyclinics (VSF Jabalpur Charter)

46. **Issue.** The following difficulties are faced by ESM whilst availing medical facilities:-

- (a) Medicines that have expired/nearing expiry date are being issued.
- (b) Low quality medicines are being provided.

(c) Patients are being transferred to private hospitals without any provisions of timely food or any attendant wherever required. Also, ESM are being charged by private hospitals citing non-entitlement of various facilities.

47. **Discussions.** Director, ECHS(Navy) informed the General Body that 80% ECHS members have reported satisfaction of the schemes and therefore specific details of such incidents are required to resolve them. He also clarified that the case of shortage of medicines is also being addressed at the highest level for improving the satisfaction level. Secy VSF Delhi informed the General Body that VSF Jabalpur has already been requested to forward specific details of such cases to ECHS(Navy) vide DESA letter DX/VSF/47/GBM/Delhi Charter/15 dated 25 Jun 15. The Chair directed that the point be closed.

48. Point was closed. **Action:** All concerned

Item XIX - Non Payment of Dearness Pay (Surendra Kumar, Ex-POR(TEL), No. 116659-K)

49. **Issue.** After reaching the DA at 100% level ESM should get 50% dearness pay in the Pension. This provision is not being implemented and therefore a case may be taken up.

50. **Discussions.** Shri PS Bisht, JDPA (Pension) informed the General Body that conversion of DA to DP when DA reaches 100% is decided by the Govt and the decision affects all govt employees and pensioners. Taking up such case separately is not likely to yield any result and Min. Of Finance regularly reviews its policies. The General Body accepted his suggestion that the issue was outside the purview of VSF and Navy, and does not require further deliberations.

51. **Decision.** Point be closed. **Action:** All concerned

Item XX - Adjustment of Group-wise Pension of PBOR (Shiv Raj Singh, Ex-CHWTR, Ghaziabad Associate Charter)

52. **Issue.** Some PBORs are facing difficulty to get correct pension as per their entitled group due to incorrect conversion of numerical Pay Groups to alphabetical Pay Groups by PDAs. This results in incorrect adjustment of pension and the pensioners suffer from this drawback. A few pensioners are getting group Z (i.e. 'C') pension whereas they are entitled for Group 'Y' (i.e. 'B') pension. For example, MPS Chauhan Ex CPO (RC I) No. 083329-N has not been receiving his pension as per 'Y' Group.

53. **Discussions.** Shri PS Bisht, JPDA(Pension) informed the members that the adjustment of group wise pension pertaining to the group code as shown in the PPO has been clarified by PCDA(P), Allahabad vide their circular No. 437 dated 03 Jun 2010 and amendment issued vide Circular No. 442 dated 01 Oct 2010. He requested pensioners to seek assistance from PDAs and IHQ MOD(N)/DPA. As a special case, he requested for specific details in respect of MPS Chauhan, ex-CPO RCI and the same would be redressed on receipt of details.

54. R Sahni, ex-MCERA highlighted the absence of Corrigendum PPO after implementation of 6th CPC, unlike in case of 5th CPC, which has led to lack of clarity in pension entitlement. Shri PS Bisht, JDPA(Pension) clarified that after 6th CPC, PDAs have been authorised to adjust pension against Pay Commission recommendations without a Corrigendum PPO. He also informed the members that implementation will be faster and more transparent after conversion to e-PPOs.

55. The General Body accepted the views of JDPA (Pension).

56. **Decision.** The point be closed. **Action:** All concerned

Item XXI - Reservist Pension (Raminder Singh Sahota, Ex-L/Tel, M Nandalmajan, Ex-POELA, KA Vincent, Ex-L/Tel, Limaye Avinash Shridhar, Ex-LEMR)

57. **Issue.** Personnel who were in service as on 03 Jul 76 and not drafted to Fleet Reserve are to be granted Reservist Pension.

58. **Discussions.** Secy VSF Delhi explained the background to the issue. The Chair brought out that an SLP filed by govt challenging the order of AFT Chennai granting Reservist Pension to three ex-Sailors is still pending at Honourable Supreme Court and therefore, it would not be correct to take any formal decision on the matter.

59. Some of the members proposed that the General Body pass a resolution seeking Navy to refrain from providing any evidence that might act against the aggrieved ex-sailors in the court. Shri Dinesh Kaushik, ex-POR (TEL) stated that he has consolidated details of more than 300 ex-sailors who seek Reservist Pension. Shri Sundaryarajan Ramdas, ex-L/TEL, who is one of the three petitioners in the AFT Chennai judgement, also expressed his views on the subject.

60. The Chair clarified that such a proposal / motion seeking favourable stand by Navy will not stand any legal scrutiny in the court since it is against the fairness of judicial trial. He requested all members to place faith on the judiciary and await decision of the Honourable Supreme Court on the pending SLP. This was accepted by the General Body. The Chair directed Secy VSF Delhi to update the members in the next AGM.

61. **Decision.** VSF Delhi to update the forum in the next AGM. Point to be retained.

Action: VSF Delhi

Item XXII - Online booking of Sainik Rest House (Rajkumar, Ex-CHERA, No. 193038-Z)

62. **Issue.** Online booking of accommodation in Sainik Rest House may be considered. The unhygienic condition in some Sainik Rest House may also be considered.

63. **Discussions.** The General Body was informed that a proposal for introducing online booking of accommodation in Sainik Rest Houses was forwarded to KSB. The proposal was not agreed to by the KSB due lack of infrastructure to implement the same like all Rest Houses do not have the necessary hardware as also internet connectivity and the low volume of anticipated booking (2-3 rooms per Rest Houses) do not justify investment in additional infrastructure. KSB had also suggested that emails to the concerned ZSB/RSB could be resorted to as alternative.

64. Secy VSF Delhi highlighted that there are 399 Rest Houses all over India with capacity ranging from 02 Beds to 30 Beds. Members also highlighted that online booking is the norm in hospitality industry, and online booking will make the availability of rooms transparent and booking procedure easy. It was also brought out that the existing KSB website can be used to facilitate online booking. The Chair directed Secy VSF Delhi to take up a detailed case to KSB for examining the feasibility of setting up online booking of Sainik Rest Houses. In addition KSB needs to be sensitised on the unhygienic state of Rest Houses as brought out by members.

65. **Decision.** VSF Delhi to take up a case with KSB and update the forum.

Action: VSF Delhi

Item XXIII - Award of Merit Scholarship by INBA (Shiv Raj Singh, Ex-CHWTR Ghaziabad Associate Charter)

66. **Issue.** Conditions and format of the form for claiming this award are considered to be complicated and need to be modified to simplify the procedure. For example:-

(a) **Percentage of 10+2 Candidate.** Is it mandatory for claiming the award for graduation at each stage of 1st, 2nd and 3rd year duly qualified and secured the required percentage of marks.

(b) **For 1st year Graduation.** For those not meeting the percentage criteria at 10+2 level, are they eligible for the award if the percentage of the graduation exam result is as per requirements.

67. **Discussions.** Secy INBA clarified that criteria and format of applications for Merit Scholarship are simplified / modified from time to time based on the decisions of Executive Committee of INBA. He also informed the General Body that Merit Scholarship is given on the basis of result of last examination passed and therefore, it is mandatory to apply for the award every year with mark sheets of the last examination passed. He clarified that wards who do not meet the percentage criteria in 10+2 examination are eligible for the award for graduate courses if they meet the criteria for Graduation examination. Therefore, the Chair directed that the point be closed.

68. **Decision.** The point be closed.

Action: All concerned

Item XXIV - INBA Scholarship (Poorva Nausainik Kalyan Samiti, Alwar)

69. **Issue.** Scholarship in MBBS course is given on 50% marks. The same percentage criteria should be extended to all courses.

70. **Discussions.** Secy INBA clarified that percentage criteria for MBBS course scholarship is fixed at 50% as it is one of the toughest course and it is very difficult to secure admission into MBBS course and secure requisite percentage of marks. He did not recommend lowering the percentage criteria for other courses as it would dilute the original aim of Merit scholarship. The General Body therefore decided to maintain status quo.

71. **Decision.** Point be closed. **Action:** All concerned

Item XXV - Scholarships for Orphan Children (Poorva Nausainik KalyanSamiti, Alwar)

72. **Issue.** Presently there is no separate scholarship for orphan children. Therefore, orphan children of ex-naval personnel may be provided with financial help from INBA in line with Special Scholarship Scheme with higher quantum of assistance.

73. **Discussions.** It was brought out that orphan children of naval personnel face more difficulties in the absence of father and mother, and therefore these children require more support after the death of parents. It was also highlighted that when no caretaker is available amongst the members of family, it leads to early separation of the child from society. Lack of financial support and responsible guardian restricts prospects of their education. Therefore, it was highlighted that financial assistance from INBA will make the orphan children to earn their livelihood with dignity.

74. Secy INBA informed that General Body that the proposal merits consideration and therefore a closer examination of the proposal will be undertaken at IHQ MOD(Navy). The veterans were requested to keep DESA informed of such orphaned children. Moreover, the audience were apprised that dependent children were entitled to Family Pension in the event of death of the pensioner.

75. **Decision.** Secy INBA to examine the issue and update the forum during next AGM. Point to be retained.

Action: Secy INBA / VSF Delhi

Item XXVI - Award of Proficiency in Sports (Poorva Nausainik Kalyan Samiti, Alwar)

76. **Issue.** Award for 'Proficiency in Sports' is presently admissible only to the serving naval personnel. The scheme may be extended to retired naval personnel also.

77. **Discussions.** It was brought out that wards of the retired naval personnel also participate in sports. Support from INBA will bring laurels to the Navy and give encouragement and morale boost to the wards of retired fraternity.

78. Secy INBA brought out that the proposal was not recommended as providing of award for proficiency in sports will not be in line with the INBA objectives and therefore likely to raise objection by the Auditors.

79. The General Body decided to maintain status quo.

80. **Decision.** Status quo be maintained. **Action:** All concerned

Item XXVII - Welfare Schemes for Non-Pensioners (Poorva Nausainik Kalyan Samiti, Alwar)

81. **Issue.** INBA Welfare Schemes are to be extended to non-pensioners also.

82. **Discussions.** It was brought out by members that at present all welfare schemes from INBA is only for pensioners which is against the government and navy rules. Members also highlighted that Non-Pensioners also have contributed to INBA during their active service and has not utilized any benefits from INBA. It was also highlighted that donations received by INBA from external sources are for retired naval pensioners and families and not particularly for pensioners only. Schemes provided by Army and Air Force to Non-Pensioners was brought out in support of the proposal.

83. Secy INBA informed the General Body that proposal for extending the INBA welfare schemes to widows of non-pensioners is under consideration of IHQ MOD(Navy). The Chair requested Secy INBA to update the forum on the decision during the next AGM.

84. **Decision.** Secy INBA to update the forum on issue during next AGM. Point to be retained.

Action: Secy INBA

Item XXVIII – School Bus Facility for Wards of Retired Naval Personnel (Poorva Nausainik Kalyan Samiti, Alwar)

85. **Issue.** Free transport facilities to be provided to the ward of Naval Pensioners for school going children as it was being provided earlier.

86. **Discussions.** Representative from INS India apprised the General Body on the background and the reasons for providing school bus to wards of ex-naval personnel on payment basis. The General Body agreed with the grounds for maintaining status quo on transportation on payment.

87. R Sahni, ex-MCERA I, No 180327-K highlighted the need to finalise T3-B route passing through Dholopio and include it in the promulgated routes to cater for

developments in Dwarka area. The Chair directed Secy VSF Delhi to take up the matter with INS India and update the forum.

88. **Decision.** VSF Delhi to take up the requirement to include T3-B route in the promulgated routes.

Action: VSF Delhi

Item XXIX - Reservation in Allocation of Area during Elections (VSF Jabalpur Charter)

89. **Issue.** Reservation of areas / locality for ESM in local/municipality/assembly election may be taken up to increase awareness and sensitivity regarding problems related to ESM and their speedy redressal at Central/State Govt Level.

90. **Discussions.** It was reiterated to the General Body that VSF is an apolitical ESM association and seeking reservation for elections will be in direct contravention to MoA of VSF. It was highlighted that members are free to follow their political alignment in their individual capacity without involving VSF in such political activities. The General Body agreed with this view.

91. **Decision.** The point be closed.

Action: All concerned

Item XXX - Children Education Allowance for ESMs (Surendra Kumar, Ex-POR (TEL), No. 116659K)

92. **Issue.** Ex-servicemen should also get Children Education Allowance (CEA) because education allowance will help them to give better education to their children. Nowadays expense on one child education is minimum Rs.3000/- to Rs. 4000/- per month.

93. **Discussions.** Shri PS Bisht, JDPA(Pension) informed the General Body that a proposal to enhanced CEA from the present rate of Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 4000/- per child per month till Post-Graduation including children of ESM till the age of 60 years has been included in Joint Services Memorandum (JSM) submitted to 7th CPC. The Chair directed Secy VSF Delhi to update the forum during the next AGM.

94. **Decision.** VSF Delhi to update the forum in the next AGM. Point to be retained.

Action: VSF Delhi

Item XXXI - Refund of Travel Expenses (Poorva Nausainik Kalyan Samiti, Alwar)

95. **Issue.** The General Body was requested to examine the feasibility of refunding train fare to one person of each association/ district for attending VSF meeting.

96. **Discussions.** Secy VSF Delhi informed the General Body that this has already been implemented. He took this opportunity to also request PNKS, Alwar to first start a VSF Associate Chapter.

97. **Decision.** PNKS Alwar to examine starting a VSF Associate Chapter at Alwar and appraise DESA on the same. Point be closed.

Action: VSF Delhi

Item XXXII - Visit by DESA Representative (Poorva Nausainik Kalyan Samiti, Alwar)

98. **Issue.** No representative of DESA visits any district for attending the issues of ESMS. Requested to plan at least one visit every year.

99. **Discussions.** The General Body was informed that in view of the austerity measures in force coupled with manpower constraints, visit by DESA to all districts is limited. Members who represented any forum in other locations were requested to intimate DESA of the planned annual meetings to facilitate such visits in future.

100. **Decision.** Member organisations to intimate DESA in advance of such planned gatherings to facilitate visits in future. Point be closed.

Action: All concerned

Item XXXIII – Separate Counter for Honorary Commission Officers in INS India Canteen (Rati Ram, MCPO WTR II Hon SLt)

101. **Issue.** Canteens operated by other Services have a separate counter for Honorary Commissioned Officers. Same could be implemented in INS India.

102. **Discussions.** Representative from INS India informed the General Body that this issue was raised in the previous AGM and has since been examined in detail. Specific to INS India canteen he highlighted that the canteen does not have enough space to cater for additional counters except to the three existing counters and therefore expressed inability to implement this proposal.

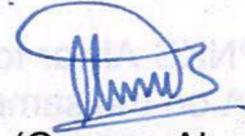
103. Rati Ram MCPOWTR II Hon SLt agreed with this aspect and suggested that placing of sign board stating “PRIORITY TO HONORARY COMMISSION OFFICERS” as an alternative. The Chair directed Secy VSF Delhi to forward this proposal to INS India for further examination and to implement if feasible.

104. **Decision.** VSF Delhi to forward the proposal of “priority” to Honorary Commission officers in INS India Canteen. Point to be retained.

Action : VSF Delhi

105. There being no other points, the meeting was adjourned.

106. These minutes are issued with approval of President, VSF Delhi Command Charter.



(George Abraham)
Commander
Secretary VSF Delhi

18 Aug 15

Action: VSF Delhi

Item XXIII - VI (Representatives) (Copy Nausainik Kalpan Samiti)

98. Issue No representative of DEBA visits any district for attending the issues of ESME. Requested to plan at least one visit every year.

99. Discussion The General Body was informed that in view of the austerity measures in force coupled with manpower constraints, visit by DEBA to all districts is limited. Members who represented any town in other locations were requested to intimate DEBA of the planned annual meetings to facilitate such visits in future.

100. Decision Member organizations to intimate DEBA in advance of such planned meetings to facilitate visits in future. Point to be closed.

Action: All concerned

Item XXIII - Separate Counter for Honorary Commission Officers in INS India
Canteen (Part Item, MCO WTR II Hon SLI)

101. Issue Canteens operated by other Services have a separate counter for Honorary Commissioned Officers. Same could be implemented in INS India.

102. Discussion Representative from INS India informed the General Body that this issue was raised in the previous AGM and has since been examined in detail. Specific to INS India canteen he highlighted that the canteen does not have enough space to cater for additional counters except to the three existing counters and therefore expressed inability to implement this proposal.

103. Part Ram MCO WTR II Hon SLI agreed with this aspect and suggested that placing of sign board stating "PRIORITY TO HONORARY COMMISSION OFFICERS" as an alternative. The Chair directed Secy VSF Delhi to forward this proposal to INS India for further examination and to implement if feasible.

104. Decision VSF Delhi to forward the proposal of "priority" to Honorary Commission officers in INS India Canteen. Point to be retained.

Action: VSF Delhi

105. There being no other points, the meeting was adjourned.