

## **MODEL GUIDELINES FOR PROCESSING PENSION PAPERS**

The payment of superannuation pension should in all cases commence on the first of the month in which they are due. For this purpose, Head of Offices and others responsible for or connected with pension cases, including those responsible for issuing pension payment orders, will be required to observe the following time-schedule for the various processes leading to the authorisation and payment of pension and gratuity. The Government's intention is that while the preliminary and preparatory work should be commenced sufficiently in advance and adequate time allowed for the various stage and processes of work, these should not be allowed to be unduly prolonged or to become interminable; to obviate this, firm cut off dates are prescribed for each stage such that when a cut-off date is reached the work will then necessarily proceed to the next stage.

(i) The Head of Office or other authority responsible for preparing the pension papers will initiate the pension case two years before the date of retirement of the Government servant. At this stage, the work will be essentially that of assembling the information necessary for working out the qualifying service(or, at a later date, the calculation of average emoluments). As most delays in pension cases arise from gaps, deficiencies and imperfections in the service book records every effort should be made at this stage to remove these while at the same time keeping in mind that what is intended is not a total overhaul or audit of the entire service book or records, but only a scrutiny limited to the immediate purpose on hand, namely the preparation of the pension papers. This process should be completed in good time and at any rate not later than 8 months in advance of the date of retirement of the Government servant.

(ii) On reaching that stage i.e., 8 months before the retirement date, the actual work of preparation of pension papers viz. the reckoning the qualifying service and the calculation of average emoluments, should be taken up. Any deficiency or imperfection or omission which still remains in the service records will be ignored at this stage and the determination of the qualifying service will be proceeded on the basis of entries in the service records, whatever the degree of perfection to which it might have been possible to bring them by that time.

(iii) The average emoluments will be determined with reference to emolument drawn during the last 10 complete months and not 36 months as was the practice here-to-from (while the period to be taken for average calculations has been reduced the other provisions of Rule 34 of the

CCS(Pension) Rules, 1972, will continue to apply *mutates mutandis*). This work involves not merely an arithmetical calculation of the average emoluments but also a check of the correctness of the emoluments on the first date of the ten-month period would naturally depend on the correctness of the emoluments prior to this date. However, any such check of the correctness of past emoluments, whether in the office preparing the pension papers or later in the office, responsible for issuing the pension payment order, should not become an occasion for an extensive examination going back into the distant past; the check should be the minimum which is absolutely necessary, and it should in any case not go back to a period earlier than a maximum of 34 months preceding the date of retirement.

(iv) The process of determining the qualifying service and the average emoluments and the admissible pension and gratuity should be positively completed within a period of 2 months, and the pension paper should be sent to The Accountant General office not later than 6 months before the date of retirement. That office will, after the necessary scrutiny of the papers (limited to the immediate purpose on hand as mentioned in sub-paragraph (a) and (c) above issue the pension payment order including the order for the payment of the death-cum-retirement gratuity) not later than 1 month in advance of date of retirement.

(v) The time-schedule and procedures, mentioned above will equally apply *mutates mutandis* to those cases in which the office which is to issue the Pension Payment Order has also the responsibility for the preparation of pension papers.