

All India Airlines Retired Personnel Association

(Reg. No. 444 of 2011)

Medicon Bhavan, 2nd Floor, Air India Ltd., Near Sahar Police Station, Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Sahar, Andheri (E), Mumbai - 400 099.
Ph : 2681 7210, Mob: 9969497776 | Email: aiarpamumbai@yahoo.com

Ref. No.: AIARPA/2023/02

Date: 11/07/2023

To

SHRI JOYTIRADITYA SCHINDIA

Minister of Civil Aviation,
Govt. of India, Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan,
Safderjung Airport, New Delhi.

Dear Sir,

On behalf of All India Airlines Retired Personnel Association (AIARPA), we have great pleasure to submit this memorandum to you on behalf of over 50,000 Retired Employees of Air India (including their spouses) with regard to "Life & Livelihood Issues" especially regarding the medical issues of the retired employees. We submit the following few lines for your kind and sympathetic consideration and action. We say submit as follows:

1. At the outset we submit this association is a registered body under the provision of law to protect, safeguard and promote the welfare of the retirees. We in the Western Region represent over 6,000 Employees and their spouses. Our organisation is functioning in the industry for last over 40 years, and its administration is run by the retired employees of the pre merged companies (Air India and Indian Airlines).
2. Retired Employees of AI are undergoing serious difficulties and problems concerning their "Life & Livelihood Issues" such as Non-availability of Pension Scheme, drastic amendments made by management in the matter of government approved pension scheme and other related issues including medical scheme for self and the their spouse.

All India Airlines Retired Personnel Association

(Reg. No. 444 of 2011)

Medicon Bhavan, 2nd Floor, Air India Ltd., Near Sahar Police Station, Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Sahar, Andheri (E), Mumbai - 400 099.
Ph : 2681 7210, Mob: 9969497776 | Email: aiarpamumbai@yahoo.com

2

3. Hon'ble Minister Sir, in this memorandum we would like to bring to your kind and sympathetic attention to the present medical scheme introduced by the government, through CGHS, replacing the AI medical scheme, which was in vogue for several decades in the company.
4. It is our submission that the medical scheme introduced by Indian Airlines is statutorily framed under the authority vested with the Corporation under the Air Corporation Act 1953. This scheme known as Retired Employees Medical Scheme (REMS) and Contributory Family Medical Scheme (CFMS) for the spouse are made applicable to the retired employees on the basis of a regulation and upon the employees paying substantial amount ranging from approximately Rs. 5,000/- to Rs.1,50,000/- depending upon the date of their retirement, their grade and the pay structure. In turn the company for and on behalf of the 'State' had issued a Medical Card duly countersigned by the competent authority, assuring and agreeing to provide Medical Assistance for self and spouse, during their entire lifetime.
5. Sir it is our humble submission to you that in accordance with the law, the Medical Card as has been signed as aforesaid is a 'Mutual Contract' between the retired employees and 'State' and therefore not amenable to adverse changes, deletion and additions without the consent and agreement of both parties. It is a matter of regret that the Medical Scheme of the company, which is a progressive and Benevolent Scheme in the entire PSUs of our country, which has been arbitrarily changed and replaced with CGHS Scheme of GOI. We regretfully state that the withdrawal of Medical Scheme and replacing it with CGHS has created large number of grievances and miseries to all the retired employees especially those belonging to lower strata of employees, including women employees. The Medical Scheme is the only one

All India Airlines Retired Personnel Association

(Reg. No. 444 of 2011)

Medicon Bhavan, 2nd Floor, Air India Ltd., Near Sahar Police Station, Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Sahar, Andheri (E), Mumbai - 400 099.
Ph : 2681 7210, Mob: 9969497776 | Email: aiarpamumbai@yahoo.com

3

scheme available to the Retired Employees more so in the absence of a Pension Scheme for which our employees and their spouse are suffering.

6. We submit that it is not our intention at all to blame and find fault with CGHS Scheme. What we say and submit is the CGHS Scheme, is not at all suitable to the employees of AI as they had their own scheme, for which they had paid substantial amount during their both in service and upon retirement also.
7. We say and submit that over a period after sale of AI, a quite number of Retired Employees has expired without getting their required medical assistance, due to abrupt and unplanned withdrawal of the Co. Medical Scheme. It is our strong contention that the ministry must investigate as to how and why; the medical scheme was withdrawn leaving them in lurch, without a proper substituted Medical Scheme for both Inpatient and Outpatient (Cashless OPD & IPD). In the case couple of employees, the desperate call of the family of deceased for medical assistance was notheeded and the employee discharged from the hospital, leading to death. The concerned official to be made answerable and compensation to be given to them and the entire cost of medical expenses to be ordered to be reimbursed to them.
8. It is our submission that as aforesaid the CGHS Scheme is unsuitable for the employees of AI, In-spite of interaction for a long period, it has failed to meet the minimum requirements and aspirations of AI retired employees. To the best of our knowledge and belief, through it has been introduced in Northern Region IPD on a Pilot Scheme basis from the 1st week of April 2023 no clarity has come in this respect of Cashless, Referral, Investigation and Hospitalization, which is miserably failed in Delhi and Rest of India.

All India Airlines Retired Personnel Association

(Reg. No. 444 of 2011)

Medicon Bhavan, 2nd Floor, Air India Ltd., Near Sahar Police Station, Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Sahar, Andheri (E), Mumbai - 400 099.

Ph : 2681 7210, Mob: 9969497776 | Email: aiarpamumbai@yahoo.com

4

9. It is our humble submission to you that through the good Offices of your predecessor Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation a High Powered Joint Committee of Management and Unions was formed prior to the sale of AI. The High Power Committee in respect of AI Medical unanimously agreed to retain the AI Medical Scheme of retired AI Employees and their spouses, with such improvements as may be required. This unanimous report was completely ignored, in respect of Medical Scheme. It is our humble submission that the present arrangement is violating the unanimous report both in letter and spirit.
10. We are aware of the fact that AI is no more a PSU and therefore it is not our expectation that the private sector airlines companies will create required infrastructure to extend the Medical facilities to AI employees including Retired Employees. However, within the present infrastructure available with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, we are confident, that a Medical Scheme equivalent to and at par with similar to AI, could be finalised and introduced in AI.
11. It is needless to point out to you that GOI through its top most Learned Legal Officer, Attorney General of India had promised in a sworn affidavit that the employees of AI, will be extended a Medical Scheme "Similar" to then existing Retired Employees Medical Scheme of AI. It is our strong contention before you that the existing scheme is not at all similar to, leave alone at par or equivalent to, the scheme prevalent in AI.
12. Hon'ble Minister Sir, we submit before you that scheme introduced in AI is in conflict with and in contravention to the commitment given by the government before Hon'ble Constitution Court, the High Court of Madras and therefore we hereby urge you to honour the commitment

All India Airlines Retired Personnel Association

(Reg. No. 444 of 2011)

Medicon Bhavan, 2nd Floor, Air India Ltd., Near Sahar Police Station, Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Sahar, Andheri (E), Mumbai - 400 099.
Ph : 2681 7210, Mob: 9969497776 | Email: aiarpamumbai@yahoo.com

5

by providing a Medical Scheme similar to AI Scheme, for which act of kindness, we shall be thankful to you.

13. Sir it is our request to you to kindly arrange to meet the undersigned representatives of AIARPA Mumbai, at a venue, date and time convenient to you to enable us to present our viewpoints in person to you, to enable you to take a sympathetic and suitable decision in this regard.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully,



A. T. RAJ

Central Treasurer

AIARPA

Mob.: 9969497776

Email: atraj71@gmail.com




B. K. BHOWMICK

Secretary

AIARPA

Mob.: 9920565079

Email: barun2speaking@gmail.com



B. N. NANGRE

Executive Committee Member

AIARPA

Mob.: 9892135257



R. K. NAIR

General Council Member

AIARPA

Mob.: 7900044911