

ROYAL HARBINGER

Reporting Fact of the Matter

Weekly



PAGE 2 :
Man Matters launches
#LetsTalkMan ...

PAGE 3 :
Vice-Chancellors across Rajasthan
join voices for ...



UDAIPUR | MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022 | PAGE 1 - 4 | PRICE : 5.00* (Vol. 08, No. 01) Postal Registration No.RJ/UD/ 29-134/2017-2019

Rajasthan Budget - 2022

Old Pension System : The Vehicle of Socio-Economic Security

Ashok Gehlot,
Chief Minister,
Rajasthan

The Congress Party and its Government in Rajasthan recognizes its duty to provide socio-economic security to the people. A Government employee serves for 30-35 years and spends his post retirement life on the basis of pension. It is therefore the duty of any elected Government to ensure that the employees live their life with a sense of security so that they can render their invaluable contribution to cause of good governance. With a view to strengthening the socio-economic base of the Government employees, the Central Civil Services (Pension) Act, 1972 was implemented which had provision for an inbuilt pension/family Pension, Gratuity and commuted amount. Unfortunately the old pension system was done away with by the Vajpayee Government in December, 2003 and replaced it with a New Pension System (NPS) w.e.f. 01.04.2004.

The NPS in its current form is riddled with a number of problems and the employees throughout the country have been demanding for the restoration of the Old Pension System (OPS) as the NPS fails to take care of their current as well as post retirement needs. National Human Rights Commission, CAG Report No. 13 of 2020 and the Second National Judicial Pay Commission have also raised questions about the efficacy of the NPS in providing guaranteed socio-economic security to the employees. Under the NPS, the hard earned retirement fund of employees is subjected to the vagaries of share market which fluctuates at the drop of a hat. In the event of major international crises like the present Ukraine crisis, the share market nosedives thereby increasing the heartbeats of employees and perennially putting their social security at risk. An employee cannot work with his full potential and contribute to good governance if his socio-economic security is threatened. Since the

pension fund is invested in market which is replete with risk and provides no guarantee of return even after 17 years of implementation of NPS, it engenders old age insecurity among the employees.

In order to protect the interests of Rajasthan Government employees and safeguard their life after retirement, the Congress Government in Rajasthan decided to restore the Old Pension System (OPS) for all the employees joining government services on or after 1 January, 2004.

In my budget speech in the State Assembly on 23 February, 2022, I have announced to implement the OPS from the next Financial Year. This decision has been hailed not only by the employees in Rajasthan but also by the employees of all the States. Earlier, Pension was the primary differentiating factor between the Government and the private jobs. The Pay scales in Government jobs cannot exceed the prescribed limit. Talented youths used to accord priority to government jobs because guaranteed pension under OPS provided security to their future. It has been observed the interest of talented youth in Government job dwindled with the implementation of NPS. The decision to implement OPS will attract large number of talented youth towards government jobs in future.

It is said about OPS that it places a lot of financial burden on the governments and forces them to abandon development and welfare works. These critics fail to take into account the fact that the country has done commendably well even when the Old Pension System was in force. Development and public welfare works were never curtailed on account of OPS.

A Number of factors triggered the Government of Rajasthan to restore the OPS. In the Old Pension System, an employee was guaranteed the right of pension as half of the last basic salary plus dearness relief at the time of retirement and in the case of in-service death, the employee and his family was given economic support in the form of Death Cum Retirement Gratuity (DCRG). No such guarantee is provided in the NPS. Table 1.1 exhibits the major difference between the OPS and the NPS.

The fact that the armed

forces have not been included in the NPS right from the beginning, makes it clear that the OPS adequately provides social security to them. The NPS was implemented for employees in Indian Coastguard under the defense ministry while the employees of this service work with the same alertness and face the same challenges as faced by the personnel of armed forces. Similar services are rendered by employees of BSF, CISF, CRPF, ITBP, SSB etc. yet they have been covered under NPS. The employees of the central and the State Governments also discharge their duties with the

despite 15 years of implementation. These are indeed serious objections which threaten the socio-economic security of the employees. States like Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab have setup state level committees to review the NPS in their respective states in view of the protests by the NPS employees. The West Bengal Government has not yet implemented the NPS.

While preparing the NPS, no attention was paid to the pension amount payable to the employee after the retirement. This has created a sense of insecurity among the employ-

ment works will continue in the state even after the implementation of OPS. The State Government was fully aware of the anxieties caused by NPS among the employees.

The Old Pension System provides social and economic security to the employees hence, the Government of Rajasthan decided to restore OPS in the larger interest of the employees. It is not fair to have two categories of pension schemes and differentiate among the employees.

Rajasthan Budget 2022: Health, Education, Employment In Special Focus
Rajasthan Budget 2022: Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot

ment the old pension scheme from next year for all employees appointed on or after January 1, 2004.

"We all know that the employees associated with government services should feel secure about the future, only then they can make their invaluable contribution towards good governance during the service period. Therefore, for all the employees appointed on or after January 1, 2004, I propose to implement the old pension scheme," he said.

Mr Gehlot also proposed to increase the health cover under the state government's much ambitious Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme from

The Budget for the year 2022-23, proposed ₹ 2,700 crore for the Rajasthan Micro Irrigation Mission, under which 5 lakh farmers will be benefited.

He also announced to make 125 days of employment in MGNREGA instead of 100 days. The state government will bear the expenditure of ₹ 700 crore.

Mr Gehlot also announced ₹ 500 crore for SC-ST Development Fund and allocated ₹ 100 crore for EWS families.

The Chief Minister also proposed to conduct the Rajasthan Eligibility Examination for Teachers (REET) exam in July, 2022. The state government had recently cancelled the examination due to controversies related to the paper leak case.

He said that an anti-cheating cell will be set up in the Special Operations Group (SOG) of Rajasthan police.

He said that no application fee will be charged from the old candidates for this examination to be held afresh and all the facilities given to the candidates at the time of REET examination will also be made available again.

Along with this, the number of posts in the upcoming REET examination has been increased from 32,000 to 62,000 to give more employment opportunities to the youth.

During the present government's tenure so far, more than 1 lakh youth have been appointed and recruitment is under process for about 1.25 lakh posts. Mr Gehlot said that "in the five years of the previous government, about 2 lakh recruitments were done, whereas we have reached this number in just three years".

Now I declare to recruit about 1 lakh additional posts in various departments in the coming year," Mr Gehlot announced.

To ensure the quality of education in the English medium, Mr Gehlot announced the creation of a separate cadre of English medium teachers under all subjects. About 10,000 English medium teachers will be recruited in these schools in the first phase.

In view of the popularity of Mahatma Gandhi English Medium Schools and the demand of parents and students for admission in them, 1,000 more Mahatma Gandhi English Medium Schools will be started in urban and rural

areas in the coming year.

Under the CM Digital Service Scheme announced by the Chief Minister, 1.33 crore women will get internet enabled smartphones for 3 years.

He announced to give industry status to tourism and hospitality, which were affected largely due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Mixed reaction in Udaipur

On the state budget presented by Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, there has been a mixed reaction of leaders of the Udaipur division. In contrast, Congress leaders, social workers, and state workers have appreciated the budget, while on the other hand, the opposition has criticized the budget by saying that it is not mentioned from where the financial resources will be raised for the provisions of the budget. Gulabchand Kataria says that this budget is a paper budget, no development direction is fixed in it, only assurances have been given.

According to Congress Working Committee member Raghuvver Singh Meena, the budget presented by the Chief Minister will give a new impetus to the development of the state. During the budget presentation, he was present in the audience gallery; when the Chief Minister was presenting the budget, he also saw Gulabchand Kataria thumping the table in the house. It is clear that this budget is for the common person.

Meena has strongly welcomed the announcement of old pensions to the employees, joined after 2014 as he has said that no employee will be dependent on anyone after retirement. He further welcomed the plan to increase the limit to 100,000 to every citizen.

Welcoming Vivek Kataria said that this budget is for the common person, and he expressed hope that the state's overall development will be faster. In contrast, the pradhan of Girwa, Sajjan Kataria, welcomed the announcement to open the sports ground in Girwa.

State-Tribal Commission member Laxminarayan Pandya welcomed the announcement of giving development authority to Udaipur in the budget; he said that would lead to the development of the village of Periphery.



same spirit and commitment. Keeping two different systems of pension is discriminatory and is against the principle of natural justice. In the performance audit of the NPS (Report No. 13 of 2020) the CAG has come out with revealing facts regarding the planning, implementation and monitoring of the NPS. The CAG report mentions that 'Even after 15 years of introduction of NPS, rules on service conditions/retirement benefits in respect of employees covered by NPS were pending finalization (Para 3.2)'. Raising objection to the viability of the fund/scheme, the CAG in para 3.9 says 'There was no indication that actuarial evaluation of the fund/scheme was conducted once in two years and of adoption of any other mechanism to assess the viability of the fund/scheme'. Questioning the implementation of NPS, the CAG in para 4.1.3 of the same report stipulates that 'there was no assurance that 100 percent of eligible employees were covered under NPS

throughout the country. If the NPS is so sacrosanct then why the Second National Judicial Pay Commission has, in its report in February 2020, suggested that NPS should not be implemented in the Judicial Services. The National Human Rights Commission, wrote to the Central Government on 20 December 2021, asking it to setup a committee to review NPS for the sake of ensuring the protection of human rights of employees. The employees appointed on/after 01.01.2004 and who have retired now, they have either not received any pension or if they have received any pension then it is not sufficient to make their both ends meet. Therefore it can be said that NPS failed to achieve its objective. There was no provision of family pension and gratuity in NPS in the beginning. The Government of India had to implement the same later. The State Government of Rajasthan never compromised with the development schemes of the State despite NPS. Likewise, the develop-

ment proposed a ₹ 800 crore budget as part of their urban employment scheme, and noted that the state government will bear an expenditure of ₹ 700 crore for their rural employment scheme.

Jaipur: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Wednesday presented the Budget for the year 2022-23, with the main focus on sectors like health, education, infrastructure, social security and tourism. Presenting the Budget in the Rajasthan Assembly, Mr Gehlot during the almost three-hour-long speech announced the launch of the Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme with an aim to provide 100 days of employment in urban areas. The Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme is in the lines of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), for which a ₹ 800 crore budget has been proposed.

Another major announcement in the budget is to imple-

ment ₹ 5 lakh to ₹ 10 lakh per family. He also announced that IPD and OPD services will be free-of-cost in state-run hospitals.

For electricity consumers, 50 units free electricity for those using 100 units, ₹ 3 per unit grant for all domestic consumers up to 150 units and ₹ 2/unit grant for consumers of 150 to 300 units and above as per the slab. The state government will spend ₹ 4,500 crore.

"Like always, we have taken care of every section of the society in the Budget. Management of the corona crisis in the state has been appreciated across the world.

"It is my privilege that I am presenting the first separate agriculture budget. It will set a new horizon in the agriculture sector in the state," Mr Gehlot said.

In the first agriculture budget, Mr Gehlot announced an allocation of ₹ 5,000 crore for CM Krishak Saathi Yojna, which was ₹ 2,000 crore in the last Budget.

If the ritual is right, then your all works are true and complete - Shreeji Mahendra Singh Mewar

Udaipur: Vidya Pracharini Sabha, Bhupal Nobles' Institute's Pratap Chowk on the 138th birth anniversary of Maharana Bhupal Singh ji, as the chief guest at the Bhupal Jayanti celebrations, the patron of the institute, Shriji Huzur Mahendra Singh Mewar, giving blessings and motivational speech in Mewar, honored the recipients in the ceremony. Congratulating that it is very necessary to increase the feeling of affection in the present scenario and importance should be given and accepted only for propagation of reality. Maharana said that always good work should be done firmly and bad work should be stopped and said that when the rituals are right, all the works are true and complete. We can develop society, nation and institution only by thinking about the interest of everyone.

Secretary of Vidya Pracharini Sabha, Dr. Mahendra Singh Agaria, while wel-

coming the guests, presented a report of the overall progress of the institute and wishing for the continuous progress of the institute, said that land has been purchased for the construction of the building of the college operating in Salumbar. Referring to the new courses started in the institute and the academic and co-scholastic achievements of the students, he said that the third year science student of BN Girls College, Rajasamand got a place in the priority list of Mohanlal Sukhadia University, two boxers were selected in the 'Khelo India' scheme. He informed that Vallabh Nagar MLA Preeti Shaktawat gifted an amount of two lakh rupees for the scholarship of needy girls.

On this occasion, underlining the important contribution made by Maharana Bhupal Singh ji in the interest of the nation, Historian Pratap Singh Talawada said that the contribution of Maharana Bhupal

Singh ji in the integration of India is incomparable. Describing Appendix 11 of Bhupal Raj Prabandhan as important, he said that every student should read it, he also mentioned the India Act.

In the series of Centenary Festival of Vidya Pracharini Sabha, Bhupal Nobles Institute, Shreeji Huzur Mahendra Singh Mewar, Shrimant Maharani Sahiba Nirupama Kumari ji Mewar, Maharaj Kumar Vishwaraj Singh ji Mewar, and the executive members launched the annual calendar with the Cover Page of the Centenary Festival Souvenir titled 'Shaurya'.

The BBM department's annual magazine 'Milestone' was released and the cloth plaque was signed by the royal family members expressing the soulful feeling towards the institute.

On this occasion, Atal Trickling Laboratory, funded by 20 lakh financial

grant from NITI Aayog, Government of India, was inaugurated by Maharaj Kumar Vishwaraj Singh ji at Bhupal Nobles Higher Secondary School. Through this laboratory, students will be connected with state-of-the-art technology.

In this program, honouring distinguished achievements made by the guests in different areas of the society, were felicitated with complimentary commendation letters, mementoes and shripahal. Among those honoured were Prof. Jayendra Singh Panwar, Dr. Sajjan Singh Surana, Prof. Inderjit Singhvi, Prof. Narayan Singh Solanki, Shri Gopal Meena, Shri Ajay Phatak, Shri Basant Singh Rathore, Shri Mahendra Singh Shekhawat, Dr. Taru Surana, Shri Krishna Kumar Ahari, Shri Prahlad Kumar Meena, Uttara Sarangdevot, Hon'ble Sh. Pradeep Kumar Singh Singoli, the working president of Vidya Pracharini Sabha, while

thanking the guests said that the work done by Maharana Bhupal Singh ji in the

Bhagwan Singh Mohi, Joint Secretary Shakti Singh Karohi, Finance Secretary



field of education will always remembered. It is a matter of pride for us that the work done by him for the education sector through such an event becomes a source of inspiration for us. In this annual function, Bhupal Nobles' Sansthan's Managing Director Mohabbat Singh Rathore, Vice President Bhagwat Singh Netawal, &

Prof. Dariyav Singh Amdia, Executive members, Old Boys officers and members and the heads of all the units of the institute, faculty members, students etc. were present. After this event there was Annual Convention of Vidhya Pracharini Sabha held under chairmanship of Pradeep Kumar Singh ji Singoli.