

**Information/Action as a result of Applications/Appeals filed  
Under Right To Information Act, 2005.  
By M.V.Ruparelia.**

1) Principal Chief Post Master General, Maharashtra Circle, Mumbai advised that they have issued instructions to all concerned to have 2 queues in front of each counter, one will be for only Senior Citizens so that they can get their turn for service earlier.

(PCPMG`s letter no. PG/R T I-98/2006 dt 8-11-06).

2) Directives to all Divisional-in-charge have been issued that there should be separate queues for retired Railway Patients for providing Case Papers, consultations with doctors and issue of medicines in all hospitals of Western Railway.

( Dy GM (G) & Public Information Officer, W.Ry, Mumbai`s letter no.G542/2/2006/30 dt 5-4-06).

3) BEST has increased total trips of 701 Ltd & 703 Ltd running from Mira Road to Kandivali from 202 to 213 w.e.f. 1-7-07 and started 2 buses from Mira Road to Borivali. BEST`s letter no. CTM/EST/21764/2007 dt 28-9-07).

4) Thane Municipal Transport has increased the frequency of Route 56 running between Thane & Mira Road and introduced one more Route 60 for same places. (Reply dt 30-12-06).

5) RTO, Thane ( A.A.) has been advising that rickshaws in Mira Road are running on meters. This wrong information was taken up with SIC along with other matters like difficulties faced by students with heavy school bags, Senior Citizens with luggage and ladies going in rickshaws from Mira Road to Borivali side facing difficulties in changing over to other side rickshaws by walking a distance in heavy traffic etc. RTO vide his letter no. 42819/RTO/IA/THR/2007 dt 9-9-08 has advised that he will ensure that rickshaws run on meter by frequent surprise checks and have issued orders to all concerned under the same reference to permit Rickshawalas of Mira Road to go up to the point, where rickshaws for Borivali Area are available. This has also appeared in Mumbai Mirror of 2-10-08.

6) Large number of Civic Problems in respect of Road Repairs, Street Lights, Transport of Buses, Gardens, Cleanliness etc were taken up with Mira-Bhayander Municipal Corporation and work got done.

7) Matter in respect of free treatment to Senior Citizens in Municipal Hospitals/Dispensaries as per State GR dt 12-12-06 was taken up with Mumbai Mahanagar Palika & Mira-Bhayander Municipal Corporation. It has been confirmed by Mira-Bhayander Municipal Corporation that free treatment is given in all its Dispensaries and they have no Hospital. 16 Hospitals of Mumbai Mahanagar Palika in Western & Central Railway suburbs under Bandra Office and Acworth & Kasturba Hospitals in South Mumbai have confirmed free treatment and given details of facilities available with them. Major Hospitals like Nair, KEM, Sion etc have not yet confirmed this. Matter has been reported to SIC and Health Department Of State Government.

- 8) State Government vide their letter no. DHS/Sr.Citizen/Free treat/Desk-3/2007 dt 28-2-08 gave a complete list of their Hospital in various Districts, except Mumbai Dist and confirmed that free treatment to Senior Citizens in all State Hospitals is given as per their GR of 2004. Information in respect of J.J. Hospital, G.T. Hospital & Cama Hospital is still awaited and matter has been referred to SIC, Mumbai.
- 9) No instructions were issued by Education Department of Mumbai Mahanagar Palika to give one class room to Association of Senior Citizens on Sundays & Holidays, as decided by State Government in their GR dt 12-12-06. These were got issued under letter no. SRSC/3943 dt 1-2-08.
- 10) Government of Maharashtra vide their letter no. MAA-2008/67/2 dt 17-7-08 has advised that payment of Indira Gandhi National Pension to all Senior Citizens below poverty line is payable from 1-11-07 as per Notification issued on 5-3-08 and same old Application Form for destitute Senior Citizens is to be filled in with the same conditions and same procedure.
- 11) Government of Maharashtra decided on 25-2-08 that there would be only one Regional Transport District for the entire MMRDA Area and all buses, taxis & rickshaws can ply in the entire area of MMRDA without present restriction of check nakas. This is not yet implemented though 6 months have passed. Public Information Officer & Asstt Transport Commissioner is not prepared to obtain compliance from implementing RTOs. Appeal is filed with AA & Jt Transport Commissioner & Grievance is also brought to the notice of Grievance Cell of Govt of Maharashtra.
- 12) Ministry of Health, Govt of India has given some information about action taken on some paras of NPOP,99 and sent 6 Manuals for health care of elders & 3 pamphlets on the same subject. Full report is awaited on Appeal.
- 13) As a result of directive by Prof Ansari, CIC, Delhi on 27-6-08, Min of Social Justice & Empowerment vide their letter dt 11-7-08 has given some information on action taken on some of the paras of NPOP,99 but pleaded inability to carry out the directive of CIC for clearly outlining the plan of action & indicate its outcome for larger benefits of the Society. Matter has, therefore, again referred to CIC.
- 14) Ministry of Law & Justice is not prepared to give required information for Application dt 17-12-07 & Appeal dt 10-2-08 inspite of repeated reminders. Complaint under Sec 18 is pending with CIC since 5-7-08.

- 15) Min of Finance did not give information on plea of late receipt of Appeal. IInd Appeal is pending with CIC since 27-4-08.
- 16) Min of Information & Broadcasting gave detailed position on action taken on paras pertaining to them by sending 57 pages vide their letter dt 23-9-08. As per this information, Directorate of Field Publicity arranges large number of film shows, Oral Communication Programmes and seminars etc. All India Radio arranges large number of programmes for older persons. Prasar Bharti also broadcast programmes for Senior Citizens from various AIR stations. 1st Oct is also celebrated by all wings.
- 17) Planning Commission has sent partial information vide their letter dt 4-9-08 as to how data for Below Poverty Line is worked out. Information about Definition & Present limit of BPL and how the quantum of Indira Gandhi National Pension is fixed is not given for which Appeal dt 17-9-08 is pending.
- 18) IRDA, Hyderabad vide their letter dt 11-7-08 has advised that K.S.Sastri Report was received by them on 22-11-07 and no time schedule or target is fixed for acceptance of its recommendations. For action taken in 9 years on para 36 of NPOP, 99 pertaining to insurance of Senior Citizens, it is for Nodal Ministry but not forwarding to them as per Sec (6)3. In reply to Appeal dt 1-9-08, it is replied that notings so far passed on recommendations shall be disclosed only after the entire Report is accepted and action on Para 36 of NPOP to provide relief to Senior Citizens for health insurance, to enlarge the base of Health Insurance and to make the same affordable, it is for Government and not IRDA. IInd Appeal is filed with CIC for deciding whether notings, which are not exempted, can be given & whether action on para 36 is to be taken by IRDA or Government, as Nodal Ministry has advised from time & again that they are only facilitating machinery and action is to be taken by concerned departments.