



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Calls for Revisiting Pension Rules to Minimise Litigation and Strengthen Pensioners' Welfare

Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches Special Campaign 3.0, Compendium of Case Laws and Pension Litigation Flyer at the 2nd National Workshop on Pension Litigation

Government Committed to Building a Zero-Litigation Pension Ecosystem Through Proactive Reforms: Dr. Jitendra Singh

Separated Daughters, Family Pension Reforms Reflect Government's Responsive Approach to Social Change: Dr. Jitendra Singh

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Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh today called for a comprehensive review of pension regulations to ensure that evolving social realities are adequately reflected in government policies, stating that many pension disputes arise because existing rules have failed to keep pace with changing societal needs. He emphasised that the ultimate objective of pension administration should be to prevent litigation through timely policy reforms rather than resolving disputes after they reach the courts.

Addressing the 2nd National Workshop on Pension Litigation, organised by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, the Minister said the Government is committed to creating a zero-litigation pension ecosystem through simplified rules, improved grievance redressal, stronger coordination among Ministries and proactive identification of recurring issues before they develop into legal disputes.

During the event, Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the Compendium of Case Laws on Pension Litigation, a Flyer on Pension Litigation, and the Special Campaign 3.0 of the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, aimed at strengthening litigation management, improving service delivery and promoting citizen-centric pension administration.

Dr. Jitendra Singh observed that pension administration must continuously evolve alongside changing social realities. Referring to recent reforms, he highlighted the Government's decision to extend pension benefits to separated daughters by simplifying eligibility conditions, thereby eliminating the need for

lengthy legal proceedings in many deserving cases. He said such reforms demonstrate the Government's commitment to making pension policies more humane, inclusive and responsive to contemporary societal requirements.

The Minister also referred to reforms in family pension provisions, noting that outdated regulations inherited from earlier administrative frameworks often created hardship for beneficiaries. He said several such provisions have been revisited over the past few years to ensure that pensioners and their families are not compelled to seek judicial intervention merely to receive legitimate benefits.

Calling for continuous policy review, Dr. Jitendra Singh said recurring litigation often indicates that certain rules require reconsideration. He stressed that when identical grievances emerge from different parts of the country, it should prompt a review of the underlying policy rather than treating each case as an isolated dispute. He urged departments to adopt a research-driven approach towards pension reforms by analysing litigation trends and incorporating stakeholder feedback into policymaking.

The Minister emphasised that grievance redressal should not be viewed merely as disposal of cases but as an important mechanism for policy improvement. Referring to the Government's technology-enabled grievance systems, he said Artificial Intelligence-based platforms have enhanced efficiency, but personal interaction with pensioners remains equally important in understanding their concerns and improving service delivery. He called for a balanced approach combining digital governance with human-centric service.

Dr. Jitendra Singh further stressed the need to simplify pension rules, strengthen outreach through digital platforms and social media, and improve awareness among pensioners regarding their entitlements. He also underlined the importance of sensitising officials and legal functionaries to the rationale behind policy provisions so that avoidable litigation can be minimised.

Highlighting the growing importance of pension administration, the Minister observed that the number of pensioners has now exceeded the number of serving Central Government employees. He said retired employees continue to possess valuable knowledge, expertise and experience and can make meaningful contributions towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, making their welfare an important national priority.

Earlier, welcoming the participants, Dhruvajyoti Sengupta, Joint Secretary, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, said the Department's vision is centred on improving the ease of life of pensioners through policy reforms, digital governance and effective litigation management. He informed that litigation cases on the Department's Litigation Information Management System (LIMS) have declined by nearly 20 per cent over the past year, reflecting improved coordination among Ministries, legal counsels and departments.

The Joint Secretary further highlighted several digital governance initiatives undertaken by the Department. He informed that 1.92 crore Digital Life Certificates (DLCs) have been generated, while the average time for disposal of pension grievances through the CPENGRAMS portal has been reduced to less than 20 days. He also noted that over 60,000 pension applications have already been processed through the newly introduced single sign-on, e-signed pension application system, with the Department working towards the vision of "One Pensioner, One Portal."

Concluding his address, Dr Jitendra Singh said that effective pension litigation management is not merely a legal exercise but an important component of citizen-centric governance. He expressed confidence that sustained policy reforms, simplified procedures, timely grievance redressal and collaborative engagement among all stakeholders would significantly reduce pension-related litigation while ensuring greater dignity and welfare for pensioners.

The workshop was attended by Ms. Nivedita Shukla Verma, Secretary, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare; Smt. Sukriti Likhi, Secretary, Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare; Dr. Rajiv Mani, Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs; and R. Venkataramani, Ld. Attorney General for India. The programme featured two technical sessions on pension litigation before tribunals and courts, litigation management, standardisation of case laws, and policy interventions aimed at minimising avoidable pension-related disputes.





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