

MINUTES OF THE 56TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and President of the Indian Parliamentary Group presided over the 56th Annual General Meeting of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) held on Monday, the 7th January, 2019 from 1830 hours to 2000 hours in the Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi. Fifty Members and Associate Members of the Indian Parliamentary Group participated in the Meeting.

At the outset, the President welcomed the Members to the Annual General Meeting. Thereafter, the President moved a resolution condoling the death of the Members of the Indian Parliamentary Group who passed away since the last Annual General Meeting held on 28 December, 2017. The Members observed silence for a minute as a mark of respect to the memory of departed souls.

The President of the Group informed the Members that the Annual General Meeting is being held at the beginning of 2019 as it could not be held in 2018 due to certain unavoidable circumstances.

Thereupon, the Annual Report of the Indian Parliamentary Group for the year 2017-2018 was considered. Shri Raghavji, former MP and Member of the group suggested that the Annual Reports may be circulated to the Members in advance so that the Members get some time to go through it. He also observed that the Accounts for the financial years 2016-17 and 2017-18 showed increase in expenditure and a decline in income and that steps should be taken to increase the income. Treasurer of the Group informed the Members that expenditures were more than income during the last two financial years due to the expenditures incurred on organizing two National Conferences in 2016 and 2018 respectively. The Report was thereafter, adopted without any amendment. The President of the Group informed the Members that alongwith other papers being uploaded on the IPG website the uploading of Annual Report in advance would also be explored.

Shri Om Birla, MP moved a motion that the President be authorized to nominate the Treasurer as well as Members to the Executive Committee of the Indian Parliamentary Group. The motion was seconded by other Members of Indian Parliamentary Group. The motion was adopted by voice-vote.

The Annual General Meeting also decided to appoint M/s S.S. Kothari, Mehta & Company, Chartered Accountants to Audit the accounts of the Indian Parliamentary Group for the year 2018-19.

During the discussion that followed, Members of the Indian Parliamentary Group raised a number of issues including review of pension, redefining pension in view of judicial pronouncements, associating more former MPs in the activities of the Group and in the Executive Committee, access to Government Institutions, accommodation facility, medical facilities, exemption from paying toll taxes etc., which have been compiled and enumerated in the **Annexure**. The President informed the members that in tune with their sentiments, she had already increased the number of Associate Members in the Executive Committee from one to five. She also reminded them that during the last AGM she had asked them be more actively associated with Speaker's Research Initiative (SRI) by sharing their valuable experience and expertise on diverse subjects in SRI workshops, discussions, etc. Unfortunately, no such participation happened during the interregnum. The President again exhorted the members to do their bit in SRI activities henceforth. She also advised them to feel free to approach IPG Secretariat and IPG website in this context.

The issues raised by Members in the previous meeting held on 28 December, 2017 were taken up with the concerned Ministries and Departments of Government of India. The Action Taken Report on the same was circulated to the Members during the meeting.

After the discussion, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and President of the Indian Parliamentary Group thanked the Members and assured that the issues raised by the Members would be examined and taken to their logical conclusion.

The President released the Lok Sabha Calendar, 2019 themed on 150th Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**SUGGESTIONS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS OF IPG AT
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF IPG
HELD ON 07.01.2019**

Sl. No.	Issues
1.	Entry of ex-MPs to Government Offices by showing ID
2.	(i) Ex-MPs to be granted credit facility for treatment in Govt. Hospitals; (ii) Ex-MPs to be permitted to indent medicines from nearby CGHS Dispensary; (iii) Empanelment of good hospitals in cities; and (iv) Ex-MPs to be extended medical facility at PHA Medical Centre
3.	Review of ex-MP's Pension Scheme and merging of DA with Pension.
4.	(i) Ex-MPs to be allowed to travel in AC-I Class with spouse/companion; and (ii) Booking of Railway Ticket either on telephone or through Internet to ex-MPs and confirmation of tickets on priority (with spouse/companion)
5.	Exempting ex-MPs from paying Toll Taxes.
6.	Ex-MPs to be allowed eight Air journeys in a year.
7.	Ex-MPs to be provided accommodation facility at Western Court on presentation of ID.
8.	Association of ex-MPs in the field of their expertise.

ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS AND FOLLOW UP ACTION THEREON
(during the AGM OF IPG held on 28.12.2017)

Sl.No.	Issues	Comments
1.	Enhancement in Pension for Ex-MPs	<p>The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 was amended in 2018 to enhance the pension.</p> <p>As per the amendment, Pension has been enhanced from Rs.20,000/- pm to Rs.25,000/- pm and Rs.2,000/- in place of Rs. 1,500/- for every year served in excess of five years w.e.f. 01.04.2018.</p>
2.	Ex-MPs be exempted from paying Toll taxes	National Highways Authority of India has informed that exemption in respect of ex-MPs are not covered under Rule 11(1) (a) of NH Fee Rule 2008.
3.	Accommodation facility to ex-MPs may be provided in Western Court	As per present practice, ex-MPs can avail stay facility in Western Court on the recommendation of sitting MPs. The matter regarding reservation of suites for ex-MPs will be reviewed after settlement of newly elected Members of 17 th Lok Sabha in their regular accommodation.
5.	Allowing eight Air journeys in a year for ex-MPs	The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs vide their OM No. 4/2/2018-ME dated 28.12.2018 has stated that "Matter is under consideration of Government."

Sl.No.	Issues	Comments
4.	<p>(i) Increase of Railway reservation counters at Parliament House</p> <p>(ii) Booking of Railway Ticket on Telephone to ex-MPs and</p> <p>(iii) Permission may be given to ex-MPs to travel in AC-I Class with spouse</p>	<p>(i) In addition to the four counters (2 each on ground and third floor) in Parliament House an additional counter at ground floor has been made operational wef 15.12.2018.</p> <p>(ii) The Minister of Railways proposes to provide the facility of reservation through internet to Hon'ble Members of Parliament and former Members of Parliament. Software for feeding the details of Members of Parliament has been given to Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats. Software for booking shall also be offered shortly. This facility is expected to become operational during current financial year.</p> <p>(iii) The matter was considered during the sitting of the Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament on 2 January, 2019, wherein the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs have assured to reconsider it.</p>
6.	<p>(i) Essential medicines prescribed by CGHS Doctors should be sufficiently stocked in CGHS dispensaries so that ex-MPs are not denied supplies of such medicines due to non-availability;</p> <p>(ii) CGHS facility may be provided on district levels also; and</p> <p>(iii) Empanelment of good hospitals in various cities</p>	<p>The issues have been referred to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and their response is awaited.</p>