

Association of Former Executives of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd(R)

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE 12TH VIRTUAL ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF 'ASSOCIATION OF FORMER EXECUTIVES OF HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LTD' (Regd.) – HALE, HELD ON 24TH OCTOBER 2021 AT 11:00 HRS.

Part 1 - Virtual Meet of Ex-HAL Seniors with CMD-HAL:

As the AGM was on Virtual Mode, the proceedings started with an on-line invocation of Goddess Saraswati. President HALE, then, welcomed the members of HALE and Mr R.Madhavan, CMD-HAL, and invited him to address the seniors present. (There has been a tradition of HAL CH/CMD addressing HALE members on the day of AGM).

1. Shri Madhavan spoke about the developments in HAL over the last 03 years, on projects, new projects, order book position and financial position. He told that HAL will have orders of more than Rs 1.25 lakh crores for new production very soon, in addition to RMSO/ROH tasks, sufficient for next 10 years.
2. On issues related to Medical insurance, HAL Hospital and One Time Grant, he spoke as follows:
 - i. Medical Insurance – CMD said that there are two separate funds for Pre 1.1.2007 and Post 1.1.2007 retirees. In the beginning of this year, a new contract was to be placed with an Insurance Company. While placing a RFQ, it was seen that there is a scope to increase the in-patient cover for Post 2007 retirees within the available funds and said they increased the same from Rs 4 Lakhs to Rs 8 Lakhs ONLY FOR EXECUTIVES.
 - ii. For Pre-2007 retirees, he said that they had to continue with OPD cover of Rs 10000/- and In-patient cover of Rs 3 Lakhs as the available funds did not permit anything more. He said that HALE President has been persuading him and Directors in CO to increase these covers to the same level as Post 2007 retirees and has met him a no. of times, stating that they are older people and hence are in much more need of higher medical insurance. He told that they very much appreciate the age related need, but said their hands are tied due to the paucity of funds and hence, have to say NO.

- iii. CMD mentioned that HALE President also talked about permitting retirees in the HAL Hospital for consultation, diagnostics and inpatient treatment. He said this also could not be accepted as the present capacities were very limited. However, he stated that they are planning to upgrade HAL, Bangalore Hospital to a Super Specialty Hospital and increasing the no. of beds. The plan is being prepared with the help of specialists and it is intended to place the contract in 5-6 months' time. Once established, they would provide some percentage of beds to retirees and their spouse at concessional rates, lower than CGHS rates.
- iv. CMD, during his speech mentioned that HALE President had suggested for a 'one time grant' to very senior retirees and gave example of ONGC. This proposal, he said, they had to deny as there was no such liberty available in the present scenario.
- v. Mentioning about EPS 95 pension case, he said that the matter is sub-judice in Hon'ble SC based on HALE's Writ Petition and all are waiting for the case to be decided and hoped that the verdict comes in favour of the retirees. The case is also being pleaded by some prominent Parliamentarians with PM and it is understood that, PM has assured that something will be done. As and when there is a decision and HAL is required to give the PF data and extend support, it will be done.
- vi. In conclusion, CMD said that he has disappointed very senior members, but had to be frank, and had anything been possible, he would have been the first to go ahead with it.

Part 2 - Virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM):

1. Quorum for conducting AGM:

The number of members logged-in for VGBM was 130 as per the MS Team records, thus meeting the requirement of minimum no. of 100 members to be present for the quorum. Hence, the AGM was called to order and proceedings commenced.

2. Proceedings of the 12th Annual General Body Meeting:

- i. The meeting of the 12th AGM of HALE was held from 11:10 to 12:30 hrs.
- ii. Sri N C Agarwal, President HALE, presided over the AGM. The Annual Report of 11th AGM conducted on 13th December 2020, for the year 2020-21 was presented by Sri A. Naushad, Hon Gen Secretary. It was unanimously adopted by the General Body.

3. Report on Activities of HALE Since 11th AGM:

Sri A. Naushad, General Secretary made a power point presentation to the General Body on the activities handled during the year, since the last AGM held on 13th December 2020, covering the following -

- i. The EC had 6 Virtual Meetings during the year. A no. of sub groups also met on various issues.
- ii. EPS'95 – to be covered by President.
- iii. Health Insurance – renewal of contract by HAL.
- iv. Medical insurance-Top-up Renewal.
- v. Update on HALE Membership.
- vi. Creation/Updation of WhatsApp groups for dissemination of information from HALE-EC to Members.
- vii. Life Certificates – Health Insurance and EPS.
- viii. Health Check-up at Manipal Hospital.
- ix. Tie-up with Sakra Hospital for Health Checks/discounts.
- x. Tie-up with Fortis Hospital for Health Checks/discounts.

4. Financials:

Thereafter, Sri S. Ganesan, Treasurer, presented the Accounts for the F.Y. 2020-21, ending 31st March, 2021, through Power Point. He highlighted the salient points, i.e. earnings from Bank interest and new membership (which was much lower this year); expenses which included employing an office assistant on full time basis as well as due to additional maintenance & electrical bills due to bigger office building. He also highlighted the total FD's as of 31st march, 2021 which include funds collected from the members for the EPS'95 Writ Petition in SC.

The Treasurer also told that the Accounts have been duly audited and a clean Audit Report given by the Auditor, which has been shared with the members on-line. He, then, requested to approve the Accounts as presented. The same was approved by AGM.

5. EPS-95:

Sri NC Agarwal, President HALE, narrated in detail the progress in EPS-95 case in Hon'ble SC as well as representations by some prominent MP's with PM & concerned Ministers, through Power Point presentation. Summary as follows –

- i. Based on Judgement by Hon'ble SC in RC Gupta & others' case of Oct., 2016, EPFO issued 'general circular' to implement the same to ALL on 23rd April, 2017, but issued another interim circular on 31st May, 2017 withdrawing the benefits to Exempted Trusts. As this was totally arbitrary, representations were made by various associations (& HALE) to CPFC, Labour Minister and to PM.
- ii. HALE along with BEML Sangha & BELROA filed a Writ petition in SC in July, 2018 thru' our Advocate on Record Ms Pooja Dhar, with Shri Gopal Sankarnarayana as the Counsel.
- iii. Our WP was clubbed with the 40+ other WP's (NTPC, IOC, BHEL, MECON etc) and was listed in the court of the then Chief Justice Shri Ranjan Gogoi. However, no hearing took place due to many important cases, including Ayodhya (Till Nov., 2019).
- iv. In the meantime, EPFO filed a Review Petition against Kerala HC judgement allowing higher pension and the court gave a ruling that Review Petition must be decided fir by a 03 Member Bench.
- v. Covid-19 impacted working of the Hon'ble SC and till Dec., 2020, our cases were not listed. Finally, cases were listed in Jan., 2021 and a 03 Judge Bench was formed headed by Justice Sh. U.U. Lalit and Virtual hearings were held. The summary of each hearing was shared on Whatsapp Groups.
- vi. In the first hearing on 29th Jan., the Bench asked EPFO counsel to present his arguments as the Review Petition was filed by EPFO and gave certain directions and fixed next date as 25th Feb., 2021. However, due to Covid, the dates were deferred several times and finally Bench held continuous hearing on 17th & 18th Aug., 2021 wherein EPFO Counsel put up his arguments for several hours.

- vii. Our Counsels, prominent sr. advocates (M/s Kapil Sibal, Pillai, Ms Meenakshi Arora, Sankarnarayana, Venkatramani, etc.), wanted time to put up their arguments. The Bench gave them very limited time on 24 Aug., and without hearing them, decided to refer the case to CJI to constitute a 3-Member Bench, stating that based on the arguments presented by EPFO Counsel, the case needs to be heard by a 3-Member Bench.
- viii. Next date is expected in November, 2021.
- ix. EPS' 95 issue has been taken up by a no. of MP's, notably Shri Premachandran from Kerala, Shri Tejaswi Surya from Karnataka and Smt Hema Malini from UP. Of late, Smt. Hema Malini has taken the initiative and met PM along with National Agitation Council (NAC) office bearers on 5th Aug., 2021. PM assured them that "We will definitely solve the problem". He asked Dr Jitendra Singh, MoS in PMO to arrange meeting with concerned. Accordingly, NAC delegation had meeting with Smt. Nirmala Sitaraman, FM along with Dr Jeetendra Singh and Smt. Hema Malini on 6th Aug., 2021. News coverage in TOI of 7th Aug., 2021.

6. Q & A:

There were a few queries from members as follows –

- i. Related to modern methods of treatment not included in the permitted list - New India Assurance rep replied that she'll try to get the same included in the permitted category. HALE will also write to HAL-CO to take up the same with the Insurance Co.
- ii. Delay in payment in one case – MediAssist rep replied that this has been due to re-categorisation of Pre-07 and Post-07 Executives by HAL-CO, and the same has now been resolved. Payment will be affected in a week.
- iii. Pre-07 Medical Coverage – One member insisted that more efforts must be made by HALE with CO. He was told that CMD-HAL himself, in his address, has clarified that due to paucity of funds, enhancing the insurance is not possible.

7. Support from CMD:

The President also intimated that there has been excellent support from the CMD and HAL Corporate Management to HALE.

8. Vote of Thanks:

The AGM was concluded with Vote of Thanks by Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy, Vice President, HALE. He thanked all the ex Senior Executives, Reps from New India Assurance Company & Medi Assist, who participated in the Virtual Meet, support extended by youngsters (generation next of Members) which made this Virtual Meet a success, CMD-HAL & HAL Corporate Management.

The 12th AGM concluded at 12:30 Hrs.

(A Naushad)
Hon Gen Secretary