



Sanchar Nigam Pensioners' Welfare Association

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NPWA/CHQ/M.O.F/3/25

Dated: 8th September, 2025

To

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman
Hon'ble Minister of Finance
Government of India
North Block, New Delhi – 110001

Sub: Request for sanction of staff strength for 22 CGHS Wellness Centres in conformity with the proposal approved by MOH&FW — Arbitrary depletion in staff strength will cripple functioning of CGHS WCs and bring this prestigious healthcare system into disrepute

Respected Madam,

At the outset, we wish to place on record our deep appreciation for the Government's commitment to expanding CGHS facilities across the country. However, we are constrained to bring to your kind notice a matter of grave concern regarding sanction of staff strength for the 22 newly approved CGHS Wellness Centres.

As per the proposal placed before the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOH&FW) had sought approval for 286 posts (13 per Wellness Centre) for these 22 new Allopathic CGHS Wellness Centres. These numbers were arrived at by MOH&FW after a very meticulous and professional assessment to ensure smooth functioning and satisfactory service delivery to the beneficiaries.

However, shockingly and without due regard to the ground realities or the carefully reasoned proposal of MOH&FW, approval has been accorded for only 88 posts — merely 4 per Centre (1 Medical Officer, 1 Pharmacist, 1 Nursing Officer, and 1 JHAA).

This drastic and unwarranted reduction will render the new Centres virtually non-functional from the very beginning. Essential posts such as Medical Attendants, Lady Medical Attendants, and MTS have been completely ignored. Such arbitrary curtailment not only defies rationality but also

raises unnecessary and unfortunate questions about the professional integrity and competence of the officials of MOH&FW, who had proposed these posts after a detailed, evidence-based evaluation. It defeats the very purpose of opening new Centres.

The crisis is not limited to new Centres. Existing CGHS Wellness Centres are also reeling under acute staff shortages. Many Centres with several thousand cardholders are functioning with only one or two Medical Officers and minimal support staff. This results in substandard service delivery, causing immense hardship to beneficiaries and raising serious, avoidable, and unfortunate questions about the efficacy of healthcare delivery to senior citizens — **an area where the Hon'ble Prime Minister has been consistently and emphatically exhorting seamless, expeditious, and quality service.**

Our Humble Request

We therefore most respectfully urge the Ministry of Finance to:

- 1. Restore the sanction of 13 posts per Wellness Centre** as originally proposed and approved by MOH&FW, based on prevailing standards and minimum requirements.
- 2. Augment staff strength in existing Centres to bring them up to minimum functional standards.**
- 3. Direct concerned officials to immediately review the arbitrary and ill-conceived sanction of posts for the 22 new WCs, and approve posts in consonance with the well-considered proposal of MOH&FW.**

Respected Madam, CGHS is the lifeline for lakhs of Central Government pensioners and employees, but its credibility is rapidly eroding due to shortage of sanctioned staff. A realistic and urgent decision from your good self will go a long way in restoring both faith and efficiency in this crucial healthcare scheme of the Government.

Last but not least, healthcare is non-negotiable and uncompromising — both in speed of deliverance and in quality. To tamper with the carefully evaluated proposal of MOH&FW is nothing but an imprudent and unwarranted bureaucratic intrusion, which is bound to have perilous cascading effects. This hard reality must be borne in mind by officials of your Ministry while assessing proposals from MOH&FW, which by their very nature require a perspective entirely different from proposals relating to other routine matters.

With high regards,
Yours sincerely,



G. L. Jogi
General Secretary

Copy to:

1. Shri J.P. Nadda, Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare, for n/a.
2. Shri Vumlunmang Vualnam, Secretary, Department of Expenditure — with a request to direct concerned officials to immediately undertake a realistic review of this decision.
3. Ms. Salila Shrivastava, Secretary, MOH&FW, for n/a.
4. Ms. Roli Singh, AS & DG CGHS, for n/a.
5. Shri Sateesh Y.H., Director, CGHS, for n/a.
6. Shri Manshvi Singh, JS, for n/a.