

The Mid Towner



BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CHANDIGARH MIDTOWN : R.I. DISTT. 3080

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Editor
PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

Club No. 15228

PROGRAMME

Volume XXXIV No. 44 April 28, 2010

Laughter Challenge

Rotarians and R'anns are requested to come prepared with best of jokes

Friday, April 30, 2010

Time : 7:00 P.M.

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Role and Functioning of Income Tax Ombudsman



Mrs Pamela Bhandari, Income Tax Ombudsman

On April 23, 2010 in the club meeting the Chief Guest was Mrs. Pamela Bhandari, Income Tax Ombudsman, Northwest Region, Chandigarh. She was introduced by Vice President

Rtn. Arjan Singh. Mrs. Bhandari belongs to the 1972 batch of Indian Revenue Service. On her superannuation she was appointed on 31.08.2008 as the Income Tax Ombudsman for the Northwest Region at Chandigarh, the first one for this post, having territorial jurisdiction for Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

Prior to this appointment Mrs. Bhandari was the Chief Commissioner of Income Tax in Kolkata and New Delhi. She held various important posts in the Income Tax Department in its various Central Circles. She handled investigation/appeals of Search and Seizure cases for several years.

She holds a Masters Degree in English from Panjab University, Chandigarh and has also been conferred honorary M.Phil degree by the same University. She

writes poetry and prose. She enjoys working on computer. She is also a social activist through her NGO, Swabhiman Trust and volunteer work at National Association for the Blind for the blind girls pursuing higher education. She is widely traveled within India and abroad as her husband is in the field of Travel and Tourism.

Regarding the role and functioning of Income Tax Ombudsman, this is a relatively new concept and another step by the Government to redress public grievances and give improved service to the tax payers, some of whom have very legitimate grievances relating to tax matters and their claims. The Ombudsman, who is appointed by Govt. of India, is governed by Income Tax Ombudsman Guidelines, 2006 and has to act within its framework.

A complaint can be filed with the Ombudsman about grievances relating to delays in disposal or settlement of claims connected with issue of refunds, interest waiver petitions, appeal effects, rectification applications, release of seized books of accounts & assets and issue of PAN cards. Tax payers can also file a complain regarding failure to give credit for taxes paid including tax deducted at source, non-compliance of guidelines or instructions of the Central Board of Direct Taxes, non-maintenance of records leading to harassment or even any rude behaviour or non-cooperation by income tax officials with the assesses.

The Ombudsman will accept the complaints filed by email but print out of such a compliant, duly signed by complainant has to be filed at the earliest. It is

necessary for the complaints to be signed by the complainant and also by his authorized representative, if the case is to be represented by him. The complaint should have the name, address and PAN of the complainant, the name and designation of the official against whom complaint is filed, the facts of the case, supporting documents and the relief sought from the Ombudsman.

Mrs. Bhandari pointed out, "A complaint will not be entertained by the Ombudsman unless the complainant had also made a written representation to the superior authority of the officer complained against. After doing so, if he does not receive a reply for more than one month or if he receives the reply, but he is not satisfied with it or if his representation has been rejected, he can file the complaint before the Ombudsman." She further added that, "On receiving the complaint, the Ombudsman shall forward it the officer complained against and shall try to settle it by agreement through either conciliation or mediation. If the complaint cannot be settled within a period of one month, or such further time as the Ombudsman may allow, he can pass an award."

The proceedings before the Ombudsman are quasi-judicial in nature. The award given by him is a

speaking order which shall clearly specify the directions to the authority concerned. Mrs. Bhandari said, "The Ombudsman can award compensation upto Rs. 1000/- for the loss suffered by the complainant." The award shall be binding on the department and if it is accepted by the complainant, the authority complained against has to implement it within one month of passing of the award by the Ombudsman. Its compliance has also to be reported to the Ombudsman.

There were many queries from Rotarians to which Mrs. Bhandari gave necessary clarifications. The time was short and for the settlement of grievances of the taxpayers, she gave us the address of the office of Income Tax Ombudsman (Northwest Region), which is located at Room No. 300, 3rd Floor, Central Revenue Building, Sector 17, Chandigarh-160017. Telephone numbers are 0172-2701903 and 0172-2701912 (Telefax).

Formal vote of thanks was proposed by Rtn. R.T.P.S. Tulsı. Welcoming the appointment of Income Tax Ombudsman at Chandigarh, he said we must know of these facilities and this exercise of the Government can be very useful for us. On behalf of the Rotarians he thanked Mrs. Bhandari for enlightening us about her role as Income Tax Ombudsman.



Rtn. R.T.P.S. Tulsı presents a memento to Mrs Pamela Bhandari



PP Dr. S.K. Sharma gets punctuality award from Mrs Pamela Bhandari



R'ann Kanta & Rtn. Suraj Handa get their wedding anniversary gift

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This is how Rotarians Serve!

President Gurdip S. Deep said, "One of our members, Rtn. Charan Jit Rai has been making personal efforts to help some body who needs support." He then requested Rtn. Rai to share his experience, who said, "Four days ago I received a call from PGI to attend to a needy patient who had no financial support to buy a pump for his kidney treatment, for which the operation was scheduled for April 24, 2010."

The cost involved was Rs. 25000/-. He first called up PP Anil Mehan who contributed Rs. 5000/-. Rtn. Vijay Gupta and Rtn. Ajay Gupta also joined hands for

this cause and donated Rs. 5000/- each, and with another Rs. 5000/- coming from Rtn. Rai, total collection was Rs. 20000/-, which fell short by Rs. 5000/- required by the patient for his treatment.

Before an appeal could be made to the Rotarians for contributions for the balance amount, PDG Shaju Peter took no time to say, "Done," for the remaining amount of Rs. 5000/-. Rtn. Rai responded, "I am very glad Rotarians come to the rescue of needy persons. Basically we are service people. I must take pride for it!"

Revolving Loans Project : Recent Borrowers



Raj Kumar

Ram Chander

Raj Kumar runs a sweets shop in Janata Colony. He has been given a loan of Rs. 20000/- for upgrading his sweet shop.

Ram Chander got loan of Rs. 20000/- to upgrade his cycle shop with more equipment in order to cater to scooters and motorcycles and to stock tyres and tubes.

Third loan of Rs. 20000/- was given to Daroga Prasad Verma to purchase LPG three-wheeler auto which is now mandatory in Chandigarh. He is an old borrower who has repaid his earlier loan

A Proud Mom



Ishani and Inayat

Our Secretary Rtn Ritu Singal shared her pride of having brilliant daughters, who gave great happiness to their Proud Mom by winning National Womens Draughts Championship organized at National Institute of Sports, Patiala on 17th & 18th April 2010.

Ritu's elder daughter Ishani Singal, 16 years, bagged 2nd position at National level and younger Inayat Singal, 11 years, won 3rd position in upcoming championship category.

We congratulate Ritu and her talented daughters and wish the family many more accolades.

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Aadrit & Arneev are PHF Twin Baby Boys

Hearty congratulations to Nana-Nani, Rtn. A.K. Sachdeva and Ann Shradha. Their daughter Manisha & son-in-law Anshul Wig have been blessed with twin baby boys, Aadrit & Arneev on April 1, 2010. On the same date they were made Paul Haris Fellows!

Ability Fair: 2010

Opening new doors towards Employment of Person with Disabilities

India has seven million Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in the employable age group of which less than 1% have employment. The growing sphere of influence and importance of the private sector has necessitated fresh approaches to deal with the employability of PWDs. Leading companies globally as well as on a national level, have realized the paramount value of human capital, and have reported tremendous value in having a diverse workforce and also contributing to the marginalized sections of society in the process.

Many organizations that have been able to overcome some of the myths associated with employing PWDs, are reporting positive results in terms of improved productivity, higher employee retention and greater diversity. It has been observed worldwide that, employees with disabilities contribute to a company's diversity and competitive edge by offering fresh perspectives and ideas on how to accomplish tasks and implement strategies. Moreover, research demonstrates that employees with disabilities consistently meet or exceed performance expectations. While trying to prove themselves, they perform better!

CII Northern Region's theme for the year 2010-11 is, "Building Sustainable North for Tomorrow". CII has announced its first Career & Job Fair for People with Disabilities - ABILITY 2010 in Chandigarh on 21st & 22nd May 2010, Opening New Doors towards Employment of Persons with Disabilities.

In this context, Rotarians are cordially invited to join CII at this unique initiative and to encourage other empathetic Rotarians having potential to job opportunities to Persons with Disability at all levels. CII looks forward to working very closely with Rotary International to accomplish this social endeavour.

First batch of 42 PWDs were interviewed on April 24, 2010 at National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research (NITTTR), Chandigarh and 20 candidates were selected for employment by Tech Mahindra Limited. More interviews are likely to be held by other companies.

The needful information pertaining to this mass recruitment drive is available with PP Rtn. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra, Chair, Disability Empowerment and Rehabilitation, who may be contacted for any query or clarification in this regard.

Punctuality Draw

Won by PP Rtn. Dr. S.K. Sharma

Wedding Anniversary Greetings

R'ann Deep & Rtn. Maj. Gen. A.S. Kahlon



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