

Government of India
Department of Atomic Energy

Anushakti Bhavan,
C.S.M. Marg,
Mumbai - 400 001

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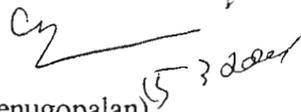
March 15, 2001

Sub : Extension of CHSS facilities to dependent children
of the employees irrespective of the age.

The Rajasthan Anushakti Pariyojana Karmachari Sangh vide their letter No. RAPKS/1/01/G5/13 dated 29.1.2001 had represented to the Secretary, DAE on the question of raising the upper age limit of 25 years as fixed in the case of dependent children of the members of the CHSS. The RAPKS has indicated that in the Scheme which was in operation upto January 31, 1998 such an age limit was not existing and the present ceiling of 25 years for the children for inclusion in the CHSS is causing hardship. Their suggestion, therefore, is that no specific age limit need be fixed for the purpose but the criteria should be whether the child started earning or not.

2. It is true that there was no clear-cut age limit prescribed in the Scheme upto January 31, 1998, but the criterion was whether the child is dependent or not. However, this position was reviewed while revising the Scheme and it was found necessary to have a specific age limit for the purpose due to various reasons. This was a conscious decision after examining the issue in detail. However, irrespective of this restriction, there is an in-built provision in the Scheme to extend lifelong benefit to the physically handicapped/mentally retarded children irrespective of the age. Not only that there are cases when upper age was relaxed for specific period of time where prolonged treatment is necessary as per medical advice. As a result of liberalization of the Scheme recently, even for mentally retarded children for lifelong treatment the disability which was fixed earlier at 40% and above was brought down to "mild retardation". Similarly, additional number of children beyond two was also allowed to be included on payment of extra contribution.

3. In the circumstances explained above, it is felt that there is no necessity to change the age limit of 25 years as already fixed. The above position may be brought to the notice of the RAPKS.


(M. Venugopalan)
Under Secretary

Dy. General Manager (P&IR),
Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.,
4,5 & 6th floor, Belapur Bhavan,
Plot No. 6, Sector 11,
C.B.D., Belapur,
Navi Mumbai - 400 614.