## **EKSHASHTI CELEBRATION 1947-2008**

Dear Friends.

Today I am very happy of our Thane Branch which is holding on behalf of All India Central Government Pensioners' Association 61st Anniversary by holding AGM and CWC at Thane on 29th and 30th December of this month. You are aware that 60th Anniversary, i.e. Diamond Jubillee was celebrated at Pune last year at the hands of Shri. B. G. Deshmukh Ex. Cabinet Secretary, Govt. of India on grand scale.

We have started holding our AGMs at different places in India with intention of coming to your doorstep. We started with Mumbai, Nashik, Bijapur and now at Thane. Many members can't visit H.Q. for knowing the working of the Association. By coming to your place you can involve yourself personally in the working of the Association by taking part in the AGM. This is possible only by becoming a member of our association by paying Rs. 200/- for life long, which is a mearge amount for which no body will feel pinch. All Central Govt. Pensioners, Pensioners of PSUS and other Units can become member. The persons who are due to retire in the near future can aslo become member and know the details of their pension, gratuity and other benefits in advance.

Our Association was established in the year 1947, by some retired postal pensioners, but in the course of time it expanded throughout the country. We have got more than 75 branches and more than 55000 members across the country. We could achive this only because of you. Our Association main aim is to solve the problems faced by Pensioners helping them in case of monetary help required in serious illness, help the downtrodden people by helping them in cash, help the people in National calamity by giving donations to needy people and other help. Our branches arrange trips to different places near about of senior citizens and our member etc. and bring joy in their life.

We have struggled from the beginning for the welfare of the pensioners. We have given oral evidance for 3rd, 4th and 5th Pay Commissions. But at the time of appointing 6th Pay Commission our Pensioners community was ignored initially but Govt. had to succumb to acced our demand of including Pensioners in the referance to the 6th Pay Commission. This could happen only due to efforts of all Pensioners across the country. To fight for getting other pending demands met, we have formed a confederation of All Central Govt. Pensioners and our Association plays a major part in it.

Due to our activities towards Pensioners, Govt. has recognised us and pension and Pension Welfare Ministry has donated a computer and Rs. 60000/- per year for the expenses, With this. We can have direct access to pension Ministry & try to solve our problems. This is the greatest achievement.

In the end I congratulate all the well wishers, members of Association & others for giving a helping hand to us.

Shri. M. A. Karlekar

General Secretary, Pune H.Q.